



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Defense Agency Selects Aegis Contractors

OW1608081088 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT
16 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO—The Defense Agency has provisionally selected two Japanese firms as parts makers for warships equipped with the Aegis Command and Control System, agency sources said Tuesday.

The Aegis is the most sophisticated surface-to-air weapons systems, primarily designed to defend against anti-ship missiles.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. was chosen to build the hull of the ship, while Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. will manufacture the Lm2500 gas turbine engines, the sources said.

Formal contracts with the two companies are expected to be concluded in December.

The agency concluded a contract with the U.S. Defense Department on June 24 to purchase the Aegis system for about 63.2 billion yen.

The Aegis warship is priced at 122.3 Billion yen and the combined price of the hull and engines are estimated at about 59 billion yen.

The agency plans to deploy the first Aegis ship in Fiscal 1992, the second in Fiscal 1994, and deployment of two more Aegis ships in the future, for a total of four such ships, the agency said.

Paper Views Kadena Aircraft Redeployment

OW1508132788 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese
5 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Give Up Aircraft Redeployment to Kadena—People of Okinawa Prefecture Face Exposure to Danger"]

[Text] With respect to the issue of the 26th Attack Unit [shinryaku butai] being redeployed from Clark Air Base in the Philippines to the U.S. Kadena Air Base [KAB], Arima, director general of the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau, has said: "The redeployment plan is an established plan but we have not heard if it will be to Kadena or not. I think that this will become certain by early fall." He made the remarks in reply to questions from Kadena Town Mayor Yoshihama and representatives from the town assembly, who met him to appeal for opposition to the redeployment plan. Whatever the circumstances facing the U.S. side may be, we think that the redeployment to Kadena should not be approved.

As pointed out by Mayor Yoshihama and his group, KAB is now already full with aircraft permanently stationed there numbering more than 140. According to the

results of a watch and survey action regarding KAB conducted by the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Committee on 27-28 July, a total of 1,233 flights were observed in only 2 days. It was found that aircraft were flying over at a rate of once every 70 seconds, and that the danger was so high that a major accident could have happened any moment.

The increased frequency of flights at KAB is believed to be partly due to the recently intensified U.S. military exercises. However, the redeployment of aircraft from Clark cannot be called a temporary transfer and they are believed to be eventually permanently stationed at Kadena base. Therefore, opposition by the people of Okinawa Prefecture is inevitable.

Lately, an uneasy situation has reportedly been continuing in the Philippines because U.S. military bases have been made the targets of communist guerrilla attacks. Last year, three U.S. servicemen were killed by guerrillas off-base, giving rise to public security problems. It is strongly believed that this deterioration of public security and order is in the background of the plan to redeploy the unit concerned to Japan. Preparations are already under way at Yokota Base for receiving it.

U.S.-Philippine Agreement Merits Attention [subhead]

Another question that merits attention is that the U.S.-Philippines base agreement is due to expire in 1991. Diplomatic negotiations have been held on this question since last year, but the talks are at a deadlock with both sides pitted against each other over the amount of aid to be provided in the form of "base rental."

According to the latest reports, the Philippine side has demanded an increase of the rental from \$180 million to \$2 to \$3 billion a year; the United States has rejected this demand, terming it "an exorbitant demand." Since then both sides have come somewhat closer with the Philippine side appearing to have reduced its request to \$1.2 billion and the U.S. side increasing its offer to \$750 million. But there still is a difference in the position of the two sides, and the talks have reached a stalemate.

Meanwhile, a antinuclear arms bill has been adopted by the Philippine Senate, paving the way for the possibility of U.S. warships carrying nuclear arms being denied port calls. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, speaking at public hearings and other gatherings, has said, "We are considering moving the bases to other places." This statement also deserves attention.

Presupposing the closure of the Philippine bases, the U.S. Government has been studying plans to transfer the U.S. forces in the Philippines to Japan, South Korea, and/or Guam. The plans, which have been examined by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger, call for redeploying Air Force components to Japan and South Korea, transferring warship repair bases to Japan and

Guam island, and moving military procurement facilities and logistic bases to Australia and the Micronesian islands. The planned redeployment will reportedly cost between \$3 and \$5 billion.

As is clear from these facts, there are various moves now under way concerning U.S. military bases in the Philippines. As a matter of course, these moves are expected to affect the U.S. military bases on Okinawa as well.

U.S. and Japanese Government authorities say that the anticipated redeployment of units to Yokota base in Japan and, in part, to Kadena has nothing to do with the expiration of the U.S.-Philippines base agreement. But can this be called a conclusive statement? In either case, we can not but pay serious attention to the future course of the U.S.-Philippine base talks.

Abnormal Situation at Kadena Air Base [subhead]

Recent activities at KAB have been so intense that they could be called "abnormal." This may have something to do with the Middle East war situation, while carrier-borne aircraft arrivals and exercises have also increased. The base has had no moment of let-up.

According to the results of a watch and survey action conducted by the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Committee, it was confirmed that in only 2 days 1,233 flights of military aircraft of all types had been observed including attack, combat, transport, support, command, and control and intelligence aircraft.

Of these aircraft, the mainstay F-15 fighters were observed most often, accounting for 38.9 percent of the total; followed by FA-18 Midway carrier-borne planes at 21.5 percent. Combat and attack aircraft including A-4's and F-5's accounted for 72 percent of the total. [figures as published] The types of aircraft confirmed in the 2-day period numbered 33, and it is noteworthy that 16 of them had flown in from other places than KAB. This indicates how KAB is linked with other bases in the Far East and how it serves as part of the U.S. Asian strategy.

As a result, local inhabitants residing in the vicinity of KAB are daily troubled by noise and worried about a possible accident occurring at any time. Should a new unit be redeployed there in addition to all these aircraft, it would create a big problem.

In their Tokyo campaign, Town Mayor Yoshihama and his group appealed, "With a major accident possibly occurring at any time, the townspeople's worries are unbearable." This is quite natural. Once a major accident occurred at KAB in which a B-52 strategic bomber burst into flames after failing to take off. Recently a Hornet carrier-borne plane crashed while another was involved in an oil leakage incident.

It is clear that had these accidents involved civilian residential areas in the vicinity, they would have developed into disastrous accidents. In such a case, who would assume responsibility? It is not something that could be justified even if the Japan-U.S. security treaty was used as a pretext.

We hope that the prefectural government will realize the actual situation, and not regard it as a problem which exclusively concerns Kadena town, and we hope that it will strongly appeal to the government to have measures worked out.

Okinawan Groups To Protest Artillery Exercises

OW1508093888 Naha Radio NHK in Japanese
2210 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] In protest to the live shell artillery exercises by the U.S. Marine Corps [USMC] across Prefectural Highway 104, the Prefectural Federation of Labor Unions and democratic organizations affiliated with the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] plan to hold a sit-in demonstration before the base commander's office on 18 August and a prefectural people's rally late this month at Kin-cho, signaling their engagement in a new series of antibase actions.

The USMC in Okinawa has just held 3 days of artillery exercises ending on 4 August at Camp Hansen in Kin-cho, during which Highway 104 was closed down to civilian traffic and a total of more than 1,000 shots, the usual average for a whole year's artillery exercises, were fired. A similar live shell exercise is scheduled to be held for another 3 days starting tomorrow.

In this connection, the Prefectural People's Conference To Safeguard the Constitution and Oppose the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the pro-JSP Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) have decided to stage new antibase actions, aside from their usual protests in Kin-cho and before the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau office. Planned actions include a 9-hour sit-in protest demonstration before the USMC base commander's office from 0800 on 18 August, the third day of the exercises, and a protest rally mobilizing 2,000 people to surround the base in the late afternoon of the same day. Such actions are unprecedented since Okinawa's reversion to Japanese administration.

Furthermore, the said organizations plan to hold a prefectural people's rally to protest live shell firing exercises in Kin-cho late this month, the first such rally in 7 years. The reasons behind these new antibase actions include the intensification of military exercises, as evident from the holding of live shell firing exercises once in 2 or 3 weeks, and the decrease in the number of people participating in the usual local protest meetings. The reformist organizations intend to propagate the antibase movement among the local residents and through this, rehabilitate the movement.

U.S. Marines Call Off Exercise

OW1508135088 Naha NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0315 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The U.S. Marine Corps [USMC] 3-day live shell artillery exercises across Prefectural Highway 104 scheduled to start tomorrow have been canceled.

According to a notice transmitted to the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau by the USMC Operation and Training Division, the USMC has cancelled its 3-day live shell artillery exercises across Highway 104 at the Camp Hansen training grounds scheduled to start tomorrow. The reason for the cancellation was not mentioned.

USMC live shell firing exercises have been held four times this year, among which exercises lasting for 3 days have been held once from 2 August. During that round of exercises, around 1,000 live shells, equivalent to the usual average for a whole year's live shell exercises, were fired into the impact area in Onna-take. The 3-day exercises planned for tomorrow come only 10 days after the last training, and reformist organizations have been strongly protesting the unceasing holding of exercises.

U.S. Navy Officer Said Negligent in Incident

OW1508131688 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Text] Naha, Okinawa Pref., Aug. 15 KYODO—Japan's Maritime Safety Agency on Monday sent its official investigation report to Japanese public prosecutors concerning a U.S. Navy lieutenant who mistakenly shot at a Malaysian cargo ship off Okinawa and seriously wounded one of the crew in July, 1987.

The papers sent to the prosecution said Lt. Michael J. Foster, 30, is suspected of gross negligence in accidentally injuring others while on duty.

However, because the U.S. Navy officer was on duty at the time of the accident, he was not indicted in Japan under terms of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, officials said. Jurisdiction over the case now rests with the U.S., they said.

According to the Japanese official documents, Foster, who was heading up a four-plane air squadron of the U.S. Navy Fifth Air Wing on July 27, 1987, was dropping mock bombs during maneuvers when he twice shot at the Malaysian-registered ship Pomex Saga without confirming its identity.

Without relying on radar, he mistook the 5,922-ton cargo ship for a deserted island where the practice was to be carried out, according to the Japanese papers.

One of Foster's shots struck Pomex Saga crewman Arturo Roca, a Filipino sailor, in his right arm which later had to be amputated.

The accident occurred off Kumejima Island some 90 kilometers southwest of mainland Okinawa.

Foster's squadron took off from the U.S. base at Kadena in Okinawa heading for the island of Torishima located some 110 kilometers north of Okinawa.

Meanwhile, compensation talks were conducted between Roca and the U.S. Armed Forces and 10,000 dollars were paid on Monday as part of the compensation money to Roca, who has been here for medical treatment.

Takeshita Apologizes to U.S. Black Caucus

OW1308045588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT
13 Aug 88

[Text] Washington, Aug. 12 KYODO—Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita Friday apologized to the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus and said he was saddened that racial slurs made by a senior Japanese politician had hurt American feelings.

The apology, made in a letter delivered to the Rep. Mervyn Dymally, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, however, came short of expectations from American critics.

A spokesman for Dymally said the Takeshita letter was full of nice-sounding words and did not say anything concrete.

According to a Japanese version of the letter released by the Japanese Embassy here, Takeshita said there is absolutely no reason to justify racial discrimination.

Takeshita was responding to a letter Dymally wrote him earlier this month criticizing the "racially derogatory comments" made by Michio Watanabe, the top Japanese ruling party official in charge of policy affairs, and commercial exploitation of black mannequins and Sambo toys in Japan.

Watanabe told an audience of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan on July 23 that American blacks have no qualms about going bankrupt through excessive spending. He later issued an apology.

Takeshita said he understood the remarks and practices have hurt American feelings, and pledged to raise the Japanese awareness of the multiracial nature of the American society.

The Dymally spokesman said the Black Caucus appreciates Takeshita's promise to raise Japanese racial awareness but noted that Takeshita made no reference to their demand that Japanese businesses in America expand job opportunities to the blacks.

He said the Black Caucus plans to send a delegation to Japan in the near future to talk directly with Takeshita.

Contribution Planned for Gulf Cease-Fire Fund
*OW1308074988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT
13 Aug 88*

[Text] Washington, Aug. 12 KYODO—Japan has agreed to allocate 10 million dollars, which it already paid to the United Nations to help mediate the Gulf ceasefire, to send a truce-monitoring mission to the region, Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama said here Friday.

Kuriyama delivered the decision in a meeting with U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost over the Iran-Iraq ceasefire set to start August 20.

Japan has already put up some 8 million dollars as an obligatory share in the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), bringing its total contribution to the fund to about 18 million dollars.

Kuriyama said Armacost lauded the Japanese decision to increase the contribution.

The Japanese senior Foreign Ministry official met with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar earlier this week after visiting Iran and Iraq.

Minister Uno Leaves for 4-Day Mexican Visit
*OW1508143288 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT
15 Aug 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno left for Mexico on Monday evening for a four-day visit to attend a ceremony marking the centenary of relations between Japan and Mexico.

While in Mexico, Uno will meet President Miguel de la Madrid, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and Planning and Federal Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Uno will discuss with the Mexican leaders not only bilateral matters but also Japan's possible aid to Nicaraguan refugees and deficit-ridden, middle-income nations in Latin America, they said.

Advisory Council With ROK Ends Meeting
*OW1308132588 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT
13 Aug 88*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 KYODO—Advisers to the Japanese and South Korean Governments on bilateral friendly relations ended two days of discussions here Saturday after selecting three themes for study and discussion over the next two years, Japanese sources said.

An eight-member group from the Japan-South Korean 21st Century Committee was led by former Vice Foreign Minister Ryozo Sunobe. The nine South Korean representatives were led by Ko Pyong-ik, former president of Seoul National University, who heads the South Korea 21st Century Committee.

The themes selected in the Seoul forum were (1) the present situation of Japan-South Korea exchanges and future problems (2) development of world and regional economies and outlook for economic relations between Japan and South Korea and (3) changes in global and regional security relations and the long-term outlook for Japan-South Korea diplomatic relations.

Both sides also agreed on research on historical, cultural and social books and data and wide-ranging study on the present interchanges between the two countries, the sources said.

The advisers will hold their second set of discussions next spring.

The establishment of the advisory committee was agreed on between Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and President No Tae-u during their Seoul meeting in February.

Cabinet Ministers Visit Yasukuni Shrine
*OW1508095288 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT
15 Aug 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Eight cabinet ministers and a group of 204 Diet members from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) paid visit to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine Monday, on the 43rd anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

The ministers from the cabinet of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, making the visits against the advice of both the prime minister and Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi, had appeared at the shrine by early afternoon.

The visits also were made in the face of protests from opposition parties, religious and civic groups, and foreign governments such as China and South Korea.

The number of ministers visiting the war shrine this year, however, shows a dramatic drop over last year, when 16 ministers from the cabinet of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone attended.

The political sensitivity surrounding Takeshita's upcoming trip to China, scheduled from August 25 to 30 is believed to be partly responsible for the low turnout.

Yasukuni, which enshrines the remains of Japan's military servicemen who have died in the nation's various wars since 1853, was the focus of the state-run Shintoism which was used by the government to inspire nationalist sentiments prior to and during World War II.

State support was cut off after the war, but the shrine became the center of controversy when it was discovered that seven World War II era leaders, convicted and executed as Class-A war criminals by an international tribunal after the end of the war, were secretly enshrined there in 1978. The seven include former wartime leader Gen. Hideki Tojo.

Opponents to the official visits to the shrine say they imply that the Japanese Government condones the actions of the war criminals and aims to rehabilitate them. Religious groups, meanwhile, argue that they violate the constitutional separation of state and religion.

Obuchi urged the 21 cabinet members August 5 to keep Takeshita's China visit in mind when considering visits to Yasukuni. He also urged those who do make the visit to act in line with constitutional provisions separating state and religion.

Making the first appearance at 6:30 a.m. was Posts and Telecommunications Minister Masaaki Nakayama, who signed in using his official title but took care not to make a public contribution or to comply with the Shinto style of worship.

Nakayama's visit was followed by that of Home Affairs Minister Seiroku Kajiyama, Labor Minister Taro Nakamura, and Soichiro Ito, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, the three ministers visiting as part of a 204-member group of LDP Dietmen dedicated to resisting opposition to the shrine visits.

Also prominent among the members of the group, led by former Transport Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, was Seisuke Okuno, who last spring resigned as director general of the National Land Agency after coming under intense criticism for stubbornly denying that Japan's occupation of Korea and advances into Asia were "aggressive" in nature.

The afternoon saw the appearances of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato, Construction Minister Ihci Ochi, Education Minister Gentaro Nakajima, and National Land Agency Director General Hideo Utsumi.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone touched off a storm of protest in August 1985 when he became the first post-war leader to visit the shrine in an official capacity, an act he did not repeat at the two subsequent anniversaries during his term of office.

Tsutomu Kawara, director general of the Defense Agency, said he visited the shrine Sunday. Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, visited August 9.

Later three more cabinet ministers visited the shrine. They were Justice Minister Yukio Hayashida, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Osamu Takatori, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency.

The number of 11 cabinet ministers visiting the shrine this year compares with last year's 16 and the largest number of 19 in 1980.

JSP Seeks Change in Takeshita Disarmament Stance
OW1508010188 Tokyo KYODO in English 0002 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 15 KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party, the country's largest opposition party, urged Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Sunday not to strive toward military expansion but instead to promote disarmament as leader of the world's sole atom-bombed country.

In a statement issued on the eve of the 43d anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II, the JSP accused the Takeshita cabinet of being reactionary.

It said there are moves to try to justify Japan's wartime aggression, as seen in remarks by former State Minister Seisuke Okuno, who stepped down from the cabinet in May after criticizing China.

Takeshita is increasing defense expenditures annually and trying to impose a new indirect tax, which might lead to a further boost in the defense budget, it said.

Komeito, the No. 2 opposition party, echoed the JSP's views and said it regretted that Japan is promoting its military buildup counter to international trends toward detente.

Komeito said Japan, as the only country to have suffered from attacks with nuclear weapons, first in Hiroshima and then in Nagasaki, must perform an active role in achieving the total abolition of nuclear arms and promote disarmament.

The Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], Japan's third largest opposition party, urged the government to take diplomatic initiatives toward ending regional conflicts around the globe. The DSP's statement called for government efforts to maintain and develop friendly ties between Japan and neighboring countries in order to cement peace in the region.

The Japan Communist Party denounced the government for taking what it said was a pro-nuclear policy and of sticking to the concept of nuclear deterrence.

In a statement signed by Mitsuhiro Kaneko, chief of the JCP Secretariat, the party also accused China of supporting Japan-U.S. security arrangements, which it said are similar to the pre-war anti-communist alliance among Japan, Germany and Italy.

The fourth-largest opposition party will struggle to achieve total abolition of nuclear arms, disbandment of the Japan-U.S. military alliance and Japan's true independence and peace, it said.

Briefs

Aid to Laos

Tokyo, 16 Aug KYODO—Japan will extend up to 528 million yen in grant-in-aid to Laos to aid the country in repairing a port in Vientiane on the Mekong River. The two governments exchanged diplomatic documents on the assistance Tuesday in the capital Vientiane, according to the ministry. [Text] [OW1608035988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 16 Aug 88]

Mongolia

Batmonh Greets Sassou-Nguesso of Congo

OW1608062988 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1352 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 15 Aug. (MONTSAME)—J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, sent a congratulatory telegram to Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Congolese Workers Party [PCT] Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of the Congo, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Congo revolution.

The telegram expresses militant solidarity of the Mongolian people with the struggle of the Congolese people for the construction of a new society under the leadership of the PCT, and the satisfaction with the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

Leaders Attend Indian National Day Reception

OW1608031388 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1440 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 15 Aug (MONTSAME)—The Embassy of the Republic of India in MPR today held a reception on the occasion of the 41th anniversary of Indian independence. Present at the reception were B. Altangerel, member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers; T. Gombosuren, MPR minister of foreign affairs; (?representatives) of MPR (?institutions) and departments; responsible workers of the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations, and Mongolian-Indian Friendship Association, as well as other officials.

At the reception, which took place in a cordial, friendly atmosphere, B.B. Iyer, Republic of India ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in MPR and B. Altangerel, exchanged speeches of greetings.

North Korea

Message to IOC Refuses Offer of Joint March

SK1608063788 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0630 GMT 16 Aug 88

["If Good Results For Co-Hosted Olympics are Produced at the North-South Joint Parliamentary Meeting, We Will Ask for Cooperation of IOC." "President of DPRK Olympic Committee Cables IOC President"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—Kim Yu-son, president of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee [IOC].

The message dated August 16 says:

I acknowledge receipt of your telex dated 11th August.

We appraise your efforts for the success of the 24th Olympiad.

As for the "proposal" you made this time in your telex, it was already proposed at the 2nd round of the Lausanne joint meeting.

At that time we made clear our position that we could never accept the proposal. If the North and the South, without realising co-hosting and composing a single team, march side by side holding their flags respectively, it would give the world more strong impression of "two Koreas" against the desire of our nation for reunification.

Now in South Korea, the struggle of the youth, students and people demanding the co-hosting is getting stronger than ever.

Therefore, the matter of discussing the co-hosting at the North-South joint parliamentary meeting is placed on the order of the day.

We expect that the 24th Olympic Games would be conducive to the reunification cause of our nation and provide an opportunity of embodying splendidly the basic idea of Olympic movement—peace and friendship.

With this hope, we are going to attend a North-South joint parliamentary meeting.

We hope you have a correct understanding of our position.

If good results are produced at the North-South joint parliamentary meeting, we will inform you immediately for your cooperation.

Further Reportage on Attempt at Student Talks

Statement by North Student Leader

SK1608050088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Statement issued by Ko Ung-sam, head of the North Korean side's student delegation to the North-South student talks, on 15 August in Panmunjom—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: The 15 August North-South student talks, which had been prepared for and arranged amid great expectations and the concern of the entire nation, could not be realized after all because of the bestial, brutal suppression of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u puppet clique. I will release a statement in connection with the fact that the 15 August North-South student talks again could not be held because of the bestial, brutal suppression of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u puppet clique.

Statement of the North side's delegation to the North-South student talks:

The youths and students of the North and South were scheduled to hold the North-South student talks today here in Panmunjom after completing a grand cross-country march linking Mt Paektu and Mt Halla and creating the scene for a warm meeting. Looking forward to the hour of an emotional meeting with the classmates of the South, whom they cannot forget even in their dreams, the North side's delegation to the North-South student talks and the North side's march group for a grand cross-country march, with strong emotion started from the peak of Mt. Paektu, a sacred revolutionary mountain, on 8 August; passed through Hyesan, Kilju, Hamhung, Kowon, and Pyongsong; stayed in Pyongyang; and today arrived here in Panmunjom via Sariwon and Kaesong.

Amid a warm welcome from the people, youths, and students of the northern half of the republic, we completed an approximately 2,500-ri-long march for reunification, and tried to meet our classmates of the South and hold an historic meeting with them today in Panmunjom and to achieve a breakthrough in the moss-covered barrier of division. However, even though we waited for an hour past 3 o'clock [0600 GMT], the hour we promised to meet each other, our classmates of the South, whom we so eagerly wanted to meet, could not come to Panmunjom, and we cannot but return without even shaking hands with them. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling bunch, which do not hope for our national reconciliation and unity and which do not want the reunification of the country, are fully responsible for this painful situation.

As inspired by the U.S. imperialists, this time again the South Korean ruling bunch, which foiled the 10 June North-South student talks by resorting to indiscriminate suppression with guns and bayonets, kicked up brutal fascist frenzies in order to block a grand cross-country march of the South Korean youths and students and to again frustrate the 15 August talks. The South Korean military fascist bunch, which had already kicked up commotions for arrests after issuing an instruction to arrest the South side's student delegates to the North-South student talks, mobilized tens of thousands of riot policemen for several days; blocked universities, streets, and roads; and arrested and imprisoned all of the youths and students who were rushing to join the historic grand march for reunification and to go to Panmunjom, where the talks were scheduled to take place. Because of the bloody, brutal suppression by the military fascist clique, a grand cross-country march of the South Korean youths and students could not be held after all and the meeting and talks of the youths and students of the North and the South in Panmunjom could not be realized.

In the name of all the youths and students, the North side's delegation to the North-South student talks and the North side's march group for a grand cross-country march strongly denounce the No Tae-u military fascist clique for committing an unforgivable antinational crime of blocking the 15 August North-South student talks with the force of arms as inspired by the U.S. imperialists.

The South Korean fascist clique blocked a grand cross-country march and foiled the 15 August North-South student talks this time. This again proves that dialogue, exchanges, and reunification, which it has propogandized, are nothing but a deception and hypocrisy and that its 7 July declaration is a declaration that seeks confrontation and division and that rejects dialogue and reunification.

We ask the No Tae-u traitorous clique: Where would you, traitors of the nation who blocked the Panmunjom talks of the university students of the North and the South by using guns and bayonets, get the face to come to Panmunjom and sit in a place where the talks take place? Panmunjom denounces the No Tae-u ring for committing a crime of dividing the nation. Then, where would it get the face to babble about talks in Panmunjom or anything? Together with our youths and students of the North and the South, Panmunjom will in no way forgive the No Tae-u ring's act of seeking national division as inspired by the U.S. imperialists.

The 15 August North-South student talks were foiled. This clearly makes our youths and students of the North and the South realize that unless they more persistently wage a struggle to oppose the antidialogue and antireunification maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their running dog, the No Tae-u military fascist clique, they will be able to realize neither national reconciliation and unity nor the peaceful reunification of the country. Our

youths and students are in no way dismayed at our failure to realize the 15 August talks in Panmunjom. Victory is always on the side of patriotism and justice.

Believing that even though the North-South student talks, which were proposed and were maturing through struggle, were foiled today, they will be realized at all costs, the North side's student delegation to the North-South student talks will also in the future continuously hold a grand march for reunification and national salvation together with the classmates of the South.

We express our confidence that, turning today's anger into a will for reunification, the classmates of the South will continuously, unyieldingly, and courageously wage a struggle to provide the day of our historic meeting.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling bunch must bear full responsibility for all the consequences that may arise from their frustration of the 15 August North-South student talks. We expect that all the Korean people, organizations of the youths and students of the world, and the broad range of peace-loving people will sternly denounce the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean fascist clique for again frustrating the 15 August talks in Panmunjom and will enthusiastically support and encourage the South Korean youths and students who are boldly waging a sacred war for reunification and national salvation no matter how many times they may fall.

15 August 1988, Panmunjom

I sternly denounce the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u military fascist clique for foiling the 15 August North-South student talks! [shouts of "We denounce!" is repeatedly heard in the background]

Rallies in South Praised

SK1608070488 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
0008 GMT 13 Aug 88

[NODONG SINMUN 13 August commentary: "The Student Talks Should Be Realized"]

[Text] Student rallies and events are continuously being held in South Korea to push ahead the Panmunjom student talks. On 10 August, about 2,900 students from 23 universities in South Korea held a rally to realize the Panmunjom student talks.

Approximately 500 students belonging to Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] and citizens held a rally in front of the Myongdong Cathedral calling for student talks and cohosting of the Olympics. After the rally they conducted a street demonstration.

Announcing a declaration, university students from Seoul, including Seoul University students, stressed that the student talks will be the first step toward effecting a turning point in ending the nation's division and in realizing national reconciliation and unity.

Before this, on 5 and 6 August, many universities, including Yonsei University, Hanguk University of Foreign Studies, Sejong University, and Konguk University, held a mock grand cross-country march and a mock grand debate on reunification to inspire and expand zeal for reunification among the masses from all walks of life. Antinuclear movies were also staged there.

Displaying at the site of the rally such placards as "Let us go to the North! Come to the South!", "Let us meet at Panmunjom!" and "The North and the South to reunification and the Yankees to America!" and such slogans as "Death-defying opposition to divided Olympics!" and "Abolish armistice agreement and conclude a peace treaty!", the students inspired themselves.

The struggle of the students to realize the Panmunjom talks is being waged amid fierce confrontation opposite the fascist clique, which is running amok to frustrate the talks.

Declaring the blocking of student talks at the source on the pretext of unifying the dialogue into one channel, the fascist clique encircled campuses with combat police and kicked off a wholesale roundup of patriotic students while strengthening checks and searches. On a single day, 7 August, about 800 students who participated in the ceremony of embarking on the grand cross-country march were arrested.

In an expanded meeting of the party's executive officials on 11 August, the DJP decided not to allow the student talks and the grand cross-country march, thus inspiring the puppet authorities to atrocious repression.

The No Tae-u clique, which aborted the 10 June student talks with guns and bayonets, is maneuvering to also block the 15 August student talks. The so-called unifying of the dialogue into one channel, as the puppets seek, is an anti-reunification and antinational slogan designed for the fascist clique to monopolize the dialogue and perpetuate the division by blocking discussion of reunification by the popular masses, which runs counter to the pannational nature in resolving the reunification issue.

The mean maneuvers of the No Tae-u group to block the student talks have been rejected by the students. During a press conference, Chondaehyop warned that if the just demands of the students for the realization of talks is rejected, the students will cope with such a situation by mobilizing all means and methods and that the authorities will be held responsible for the situation caused by the repression.

In his remarks at a hearing at the National Assembly on the North-South student talks, Chon Myong-su, vice chairman of Chondaehyop, pointed out that the grand cross-country march is designed to turn the era of antagonism and confrontation between the North and the South into a history of harmony and unity and that the students have risen in implementing this task as the main force.

The political and social circles in South Korea also support and sympathize with the Panmunjom talks that the students have proposed.

On 10 and 11 August, the PPD and the RDP decided to actively cooperate toward realizing student talks and urged the authorities to accept the students.

Kim I-taek, representative of the Council for the Reunification of the Fatherland, stated that what the authorities who monopolized the discussion and policy of reunification have done is merely to enhance the sense of confrontation and strengthen the military confrontation among fellow countrymen and that the students proposed the independent exchange with the North because leaving the discussion and policies of reunification in the hands of the authorities is the same as giving up national reunification and agreeing with the policy for perpetuating division.

The ardent aspirations for truth, social justice, and awareness of their historic mission has always inspired the students to stand at the van of the just mass movement.

The main force that prompted the historic events that inspired the development of the political situation in South Korea, including the April popular uprising, the Kwangju popular uprising, and the June popular resistance struggle, was the students and youths.

The effort to link the severed ties of fellow countrymen by putting an end to the history of division that has continued to exist over 40 years is the trend of the time that cannot be blocked by anyone. That the students, who have a strong sense of justice, proposed the Panmunjom North-South student talks and rose in the van to serve as a shortcut to national reunification is a just act designed to fulfill their mission assigned by the times.

Cherishing firm resolution to open a new chapter for national harmony and unity and for reunification by putting an end to the history of antagonism and confrontation, the students and youths in the northern half of the republic on 8 August held a gathering for embarking on the grand cross-country march at Mt Paektu. They are now accelerating their patriotic march to Panmunjom.

The Panmunjom student talks should be realized without fail. Such a situation as one in which the 10 June Panmunjom talks were foiled because of the splittists'

hindrance maneuvers should not be repeated. If the South Korean military fascist clique again blocks the talks, it cannot avoid the judgment of history.

Daily Encourages March, Talks

*SK1408051888 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0007 GMT 12 Aug 88*

[NODONG SINMUN 12 August commentary: "The Grand National Salvation March for Reunification Cannot Be Blocked"]

[Text] Today, with great interest in and expectations for the grand cross-country march and the 15 August student talks by college students to link the North and the South, all fellow countrymen who aspire for peace and the reunification of the nation extend warm support and encouragement to them. However, the No Tae-u military fascist clique, which does not want national reconciliation and reunification, is running amok to block at the source with guns and bayonets the grand cross-country march and the 15 August Panmunjom talks by youths and students.

By mobilizing police, the No Tae-u group arrested nine members of the reunification vanguard unit for the grand cross-country march, including a Korea University student named Yun Sok-chae, who had held a ceremony to mark embarking on the grand cross-country march at Paeknokdam on Mt Halla on 9 August. Thus, it committed an atrocious, wicked act.

To block at the source the ceremony of embarking on the grand cross-country march held at each university in Seoul on 10 August, including Seoul University and Korea University, the fascist clique deployed seven to eight companies of combat police around each university and waged a search and inspection commotion after establishing checkpoints. The fascist clique also mobilized 230 companies, numbering approximately 34,000 policemen, in an attempt to frustrate rallies related to the North-South student talks and to block members of the reunification vanguard units from marching to Pusan and Kwangju.

The frenzied maneuvers of the No Tae-u group to block the grand march for reunification by patriotic students and frustrate the 15 August student talks are a vicious challenge to the South Korean students and people, who aspire for the national reconciliation, unity, peace, and reunification of the nation, and are an intolerable crime against reunification and dialogue between the North and the South.

The grand cross-country march and the 15 August Panmunjom talks of college students in the North and the South who are advancing toward Panmunjom from Paektu and Halla, are a demonstration of the patriotic sentiment of the students and youths of the new generation, who were born in a divided country and grew up longing for a reunified fatherland, to eliminate the state

of hostility that has lasted between the North and the South for nearly a half century and to lay a breakthrough toward reunification. Their act is praiseworthy, deserving of the applause of all fellow countrymen, and should not be subject to suppression with guns and bayonets.

Moreover, the grand cross-country march of the college students that link the North and the South is a great occasion that demonstrates the indomitable spirit and firm will for reunification of the passionate youths who love the country and want to dedicate themselves to reunification. This march will be also an epoch-making event that shows to the world that Korea, which stretches from Paektu to Halla, is one and that the will of the students and youths to link the severed blood ties of the people cannot be blocked by anything.

Nevertheless, the No Tae-u military fascist clique is desperately running amok to block the grand reunification march and the 15 August student talks of the students and youths. This eloquently shows that the puppets have not freed themselves from self-righteous, anachronistic ways of thinking to monopolize dialogue and use it for splittist purposes and that the puppets are not interested, even slightly, in national harmony and unity or dialogue and reunification. This also proves that remarks by the puppets as if they are striving to realize the North-South student exchange are a complete deception and that the so-called 7 July declaration of traitor No Tae-u that was put forward under the label of reunification policy and advocating mutual exchange and free visits between the North and the South, is nothing but deceitful propaganda designed to suppress the spirit of students and youths for reunification by misleading public opinion and settle the crisis in his power.

The attitude toward the grand cross-country march and the 15 August Panmunjom talks of the patriotic students and youths is a barometer that decides the position of aspiring for reunification versus the splittist position and patriotism versus nation-selling treachery.

If the No Tae-u group truly wants reunification and is interested in student exchanges, it should guarantee conveniences for the grand cross-country march and the Panmunjom talks of the students instead of attempting to block their national salvation march for reunification. The No Tae-u group should release the students it has illegally arrested and detained and should immediately stop searching for and arresting members of the South side's delegation to the student talks and members of reunification vanguard units.

The grand cross-country march and the 15 August student talks that were initiated and pushed ahead amid struggle cannot be realized without struggle.

The South Korean students, youths and people from all walks of life, should fulfill the missions and duties assigned to them by history and the nation by realizing at

any cost the grand national salvation march for reunification and the 15 August Panmunjom talks in firm unity under the banner of the grand reunification march, breaking through the jungle of guns and bayonets.

Victory is on the side of the South Korean students and people who are advancing along the single path of national salvation for reunification.

Chondaehyop Fights To Realize Talks

*SK1608061188 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0554 GMT 16 Aug 88*

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—Some 5,000 students belonging to the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) fiercely fought on August 15 to realise the August 15 North-South student talks, according to reports from Seoul.

They held a ceremony for departure at Yonsei University at 11 in the morning and made speeches ardently calling for reunification, hardening their determination to realize the North-South student talks.

A student declared: "We will not cease our struggle till we have overthrown the military dictatorship and reunified our fatherland."

Two American public figures attending the ceremony said millions of Americans are supporting the struggle of the South Korean students for reunification and demanding the pullout of the U.S. troops from South Korea.

Shouts "Yankee, go home" and "Skin Yankees" burst forth one after another.

Some 30 students slashed their fingers with a razor and with a blooded finger wrote slogans carrying their determination. They repeatedly called for the immediate reunification of the Korean peninsula and the overthrow of the No Tae-u fascist "government".

After the ceremony the students staged a campus demonstration, chanting anti-U.S., anti-"government" slogans and at about 1:30 in the afternoon they attempted to march out of the campus to head for Panmunjom.

Some of them advanced into the streets breaking through the strict police cordon and held demonstrations here and there. About 300 students marched up to the South Gate Market at 3 in the afternoon and laid themselves down on the street to stage a demonstration, shouting slogans.

The No Tae-u fascist clique mobilized more than 20,000 police in brutal suppression, who walked away about 400 members of the vanguard for reunification including student of Seoul University Kim Chung-ki, head of the South side's delegation to the North-South student talks and leader of the vanguard.

At an interim check point in Munsan-ri, Munsan-up, Paju County, Kyonggi Province at about 3:15 in the afternoon they also whisked away Pyo Ham-myong and three other students of Chungang University, members of the vanguard for reunification under "Chondaehyop" who were going on foot for Yimjin Pavilion.

Solidarity Statement Issued

SK1608061588 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0601 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—Yuk Yong-chun, chairman of the Council of Korean Youth in the United States for National Reunification, on August 15 visited Panmunjom where the August 15 North-South student talks were to be held and issued there a struggle declaration of Korean youth and students in the United States for national reunification.

Noting that Korea is one and the Korean young people's struggle to reunify the country should be dynamically waged till the day of reunification, the declaration said that the Korean youth in the United States would continue fighting for the realisation of the North-South student talks and declare a decisive battle against elements opposed to the nation and reunification.

Stressing that the U.S. imperialists are not justified in stationing in South Korea, it demanded them to withdraw from South Korea at once.

It said: We in "our resolution" will struggle not only to expose and shatter the deceptive "reunification policy" of the No Tae-u military dictatorial "regime" but also to uphold the three principles for national reunification— independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—laid down in the July 4 North-South joint statement, realise the North-South cohosting of the 24th Olympic Games and unite as firm as a rock the Koreans at home and abroad in the spirit of national independence against foreign forces.

Failure Blamed on U.S. Obstruction

SK1608055988 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0538 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The grand national cross-country march squad of students which had left Mt. Paektu on August 8 arrived in Panmunjom at 2 p.m. Monday after running a distance of 1,000 kilometers through seven provinces and municipalities.

Tens of thousands of students and people of all walks of life in Kaesong, a city adjacent to the demarcation line, warmly sent off the members of the squad, waving bunches of flowers and applauding them going to the venue of the meeting of students from the North and the South.

At 3 p.m. the North side's delegation to the North-South student talks and figures of various circles of the North side who came to observe the talks entered the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] in Panmunjom.

But the conference room where the historical North-South student talks were to be held was not arranged at all as in the previous time.

A member of the observer group of our side Pyon Yong-nip, chairman of the education commission, said that the U.S. forces side had not arranged the NNSC conference room under its control and it was a deliberate act to obstruct the North-South student talks in conspiracy with the puppets. He expressed regret at its insincere act.

The members of the North side's delegation to the talks, together with the members of the march squad, waited for the members of the South side's delegation till 4 p.m., while singing "Korea Is One" and other songs and reciting poems with ardent longing for the fellow students in the South, but none of them was in sight.

The head of the North side's student delegation, through the Military Armistice Commission, requested a meeting with the representative of the U.S. forces side to find out the reason why the members of the South side's student delegation and grand cross-country march squad could not enter Panmunjom.

The U.S. forces side, however, made no reply to the just request of the North side's student delegation.

A member of the observer group Pak Kwan-o, president of Kim Il-song University, said the No Tae-u military fascist clique once again proved that they are the heinous foe of reunification and vicious splittists who do not want dialogue but seek confrontation, oppose reunification and pursue a permanent division by barring the meeting between fellow countrymen at the point of the bayonet this time.

Yuk Yong-chun, chairman of the Council of Korean Youth in the United States for national reunification, made public a struggle declaration of Korean youth in the United States for national reunification before the members of the student delegation and the march squad of the North side.

The head of the North side's delegation showed the flag of the vanguard of national reunification and pumice stones of Mt. Paektu, spring water of Lake Chon, picture albums and other souvenirs that the students in the northern half of the republic asked the delegation to convey to the South Korean students and bundles of letters it received from provincial and municipal student committees en route to Panmunjom. He said vexedly

how the delegation could return without conveying them and holding the promised joint memorial service and joint meeting of students in the North and the South.

He proposed to hold a memorial service for the South Korean students who had dedicated their precious youth in the noble struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, with the feeling of sitting together with the fellow students from the South, though they were absent there.

All the students and figures of various circles observed a moment's silence in memory of the martyrs of the South while the tune of the solemn dirge floated.

Then a memorial poem was recited.

Head of the delegation Ko Ung-sam made public a statement on the spot upon the failure of the August 15 North-South student talks.

The abortion of the August 15 North-South student talks, the statement said, clearly tells us students of the North and the South that it is impossible to achieve national reconciliation and unity and the peaceful reunification of the country without a more staunch struggle against the anti-dialogue, anti-reunification schemes of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u military fascist clique, their stooge.

The North side's delegation to the North-South student talks will continue the grand march for reunification and national salvation in the future together with our fellow students in the South, believing that the North-South student talks which were initiated and have been matured through struggle will certainly be realised tomorrow, though they ended abortive today, the statement declared.

We, it said, express the hope that the entire Korean people and youth and student organisations and broad peaceloving peoples of the world will bitterly denounce the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean fascist clique for having foiled the August 15 Panmunjom talks again and more resolutely support the South Korean students who are daringly waging their noble struggle for reunification and national salvation, though falling, stressed the statement.

Members of the march squad spoke next.

They expressed the firm belief that the passionate fellow students in the South will turn out in a new grand march toward reunification, continuously holding aloft the flag of reunification and national salvation. The members of the North side's delegation and the march squad left Panmunjom for Kaesong, loudly singing songs and shouting slogans with the firm determination to realise the historical talks of students in the North and the

South at any cost by turning their grievances and resentment at the failure of the August 15 North-South student talks into an unshakable will for reunification and national salvation and fighting more staunchly.

South Accused of Foiling Talks

SK1608062788 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0617 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] *Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)*—Papers here today denounce the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u military fascist clique for having frustrated the August 15 North-South student talks which were scheduled to be held at Panmunjom amid great expectation and concern of the whole nation and progressive people across the world.

The No Tae-u group which foiled the talks cannot escape from a stern judgement of history and the people, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary.

Pointing out that the No Tae-u military fascist clique brutally suppressed at the point of the bayonet the students who turned out to realise the grand cross-country march and student talks, the commentary notes:

The No Tae-u group, while blocking with bayonets the grand cross-country march and August 15 Panmunjom talks of patriotic students for reunification, self-exposed that it is an anti-reunification, splittist force, a group of traitors and a vicious foe of the students who does not want dialogue, nor reconciliation nor reunification.

The No Tae-u group of traitors has prevented students living separated in the North and the South from meeting each other in their own country. This clearly shows that it talk about the realisation of exchange of visits between North and South students is a hypocritical and deceptive one and the "July 7 declaration" it is advertising as a "policy of reunification", crying for "mutual exchange" and "free visits" between the North and the South, is a political fraudulence aimed to mislead public opinion at home and abroad and dampen and stamp out the people's debates on reunification and their movement for it.

The behind-the-scene manipulator of the South Korean puppets in their obstructing the August 15 Panmunjom student talks is the U.S. imperialist aggressors who hold all real powers in South Korea including the permission to enter Panmunjom.

The No Tae-u military fascist clique must discard their self-opinionated and anachronistic design to monopolize dialogue and reunification issue and immediately stop the fascist suppression of students and people in their righteous movement for reunification.

MINJU CHONSON stresses that the miscarriage of the August 15 student talks following the failure of June 10 talks shows that as long as the splittists at home and

abroad remain as they are, it is impossible to achieve national reconciliation and unity and realise peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

Daily Decries U.S. Moves Against Nicaragua
SK1608063188 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0624 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today condemns the ever more vicious anti-Nicaraguan moves of the U.S. imperialists.

According to a report, the U.S. Senate recently decided to give 227 million dollars to the contra bandits, which brought into relief once again the nature of the U.S. imperialists as the enemy of peace who is running wild to aggravate the Central American situation and block the triumphant advance of the Nicaraguan revolution.

In a signed commentary the paper says:

The U.S. imperialists' anti-Nicaraguan moves are aimed at egging the contra bandits on to destruction and slaughter and placing them in power to frame up a pro-American puppet government.

The U.S. reactionary ruling quarters are advertising their aid to the contras as "humanitarianism" in an attempt to dampen the demand of the world public for the discontinuation of military aid to the contras and extricate themselves from the responsibility for flagrantly violating the peace agreement of Central America.

The U.S. reactionary ruling quarters are taking no notice of humanitarianism, but are only interested in the revival of the contras and the overthrow of the Sandinist government through them.

The U.S. imperialists' aid to the contra bandits is an open provocation against the Nicaraguan Government and people who are consistently striving to settle the disputes in a peaceful way and a vicious challenge to the cause of peace in Central America.

The U.S. imperialists should not instigate the contra bandits to the anti-Nicaraguan moves.

Anniversary of Liberation From Japan Marked

Party Marks Anniversary
SK1408082888 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0826 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—The North Hamgyong Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee gave a film show and a cocktail party Saturday on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the national liberation.

Present there were Vice-Chairman of the Committee Kang Yong-wi and other officials concerned.

Soviet Consul General in Chongjin Lev Moshkov and his consulate officials were present on invitation.

The participants appreciated first the feature film "From Spring to Summer" jointly produced by Korea and the Soviet Union.

Then followed a cocktail party in a friendly atmosphere, at which speeches were made.

Meeting Held at Palace of Culture
SK1508083288 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0814 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—A meeting celebrating the 43rd anniversary of national liberation was held on August 14 at the People's Palace of Culture.

Attending the meeting were Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, and other officials as well as working people in the city and soldiers of the People's Army.

Invited there were Boris Morozov, charge d'affaires ad interim, and officials, of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang and Soviet visitors staying in Korea.

Yi Chong-yul, minister of public health who is chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, spoke at the meeting.

Our people, he noted, always remember the heroic exploits performed by the men and officers of the Soviet Army in the battles for destroying the Japanese imperialist aggressors that occupied Korea and highly appreciate their noble spirit of proletarian internationalism and pay a high tribute to them.

The accomplishment of the cause of national liberation was a shining fruition of the protracted arduous struggle of the Korean communists and people for the sovereignty of the country and an epochal event which marked the origin of a radical turn in the history of our country, he stressed.

He expressed thanks to the Soviet party and government for fully supporting the fair and aboveboard proposals and initiatives of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic for removing tensions on the Korean peninsula and peacefully solving the question of national reunification and for showing firm solidarity with the Korean people in the struggle to get the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons, the main obstacle to peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification, withdrawn from South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

He warmly hailed the achievements registered by the Soviet people in their endeavours to implement the line advanced by the 27th party congress and the decision of the 19th All-Union Conference of the Party under the leadership of the CPSU headed by respected Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and said that our party and the DPRK Government highly estimate the recent constructive peace proposals and initiatives of the Soviet party and government and extend full support and solidarity for them.

The historical meetings and talks between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in October 1986 were a signal event which held a special place in more comprehensively expanding and developing the traditional relations of friendship between Korea and the Soviet Union which entered a new stage of development, noted the speaker.

Our people will, in the future, too, advance in firm unity with the fraternal Soviet people along the road of common struggle for the victory of the cause of peace and socialism against imperialism and make every possible effort to develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, he declared.

Boris Morozov, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang, spoke next.

He recalled that 43 years ago there was a precondition for the development of Korea along the road of socialism and progress and a basis was laid for unbreakable militant friendship and internationalist cooperation between our two countries.

The contacts between the party and state leaders of the two countries, he said, have played a particular role in cementing our relations. The meetings and talks Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had when he visited the Soviet Union in 1984 and 1986 laid a solid foundation for further developing cooperation between us, widely exchanging experiences in socialist construction and strengthening the common struggle for relaxing the situation in the Asian Pacific region, he added.

Pointing out that it was of weightier importance for the Soviet Union and the DPRK to exert common efforts to guarantee the security in the Asian-Pacific region, he underscored the positive role played by the DPRK in the struggle for general security.

The Soviet Union, he noted, fully supports the proposal for the convocation of the North-South joint conference, the proposal for parliamentary talks, the proposal for converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and other active initiatives taken by the DPRK for the discussion of urgent problems.

The Soviet Union has already stated that if a nuclear-free zone is established on the Korean peninsula, she is ready to guarantee it together with other nuclear powers, he declared, and continued.

The Soviet people are rejoiced at the great achievements made in all the political, economic, cultural, scientific and educational fields with the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding ahead and pay tribute to them. And these successes are results of the devoted labor of the Korean people under the tested leadership of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Kim Il-song, he added.

Paper Marks Anniversary

*SK1508091088 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0859 GMT 15 Aug 88*

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SIMUN today dedicates an editorial headlined "Let the Whole Nation Unite To Accelerate the Cause of National Reunification" to the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of the country.

The editorial says:

The liberation of the country is a great gain won by the shining victory in the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and waged by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"In accordance with the chuche-oriented line of armed struggle put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our people waged a heroic anti-Japanese armed struggle, defeated the Japanese imperialists and achieved the historic cause of national liberation."

The anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and waged under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Il-song was a great national liberation revolutionary struggle of our people to defeat the Japanese imperialists and achieve the liberation of the country, rallied close under the banner of the great chuche idea.

Indeed, it shines as an imperishable historic feat performed by Comrade Kim Il-song for the country and the people that he united the whole nation in those darkest days of national ordeal at its height, organized and led the 20-year long anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and accomplished the cause of national liberation.

The Soviet Army which played a decisive role in leading the Second World War to victory took part in the war against Japan and helped our people's cause of the arduous anti-Japanese liberation at the cost of blood.

Our people bear always deep in mind the liberator's role and internationalist cooperation of the Soviet Union which actively helped the cause of national liberation, and extend warm greetings to the fraternal Soviet people on the holiday of the August 15 liberation.

Today the entire anti-U.S. patriotic forces of Korea are faced with the responsible task to step up the historic onward movement of our nation towards the road of anti-U.S. national salvation, reunification and accelerate national reunification.

What is important in winning victory, rallied close under the banner of anti-U.S. national salvation is for the entire people in the North and the South to strive to realise reasonable proposals including the proposal to found the democratic confederal republic of Koryo and the proposals for a North-South joint conference and a North-South joint parliamentary meeting reflecting the three principles for national reunification. The entire people in the northern half of the country are rendering warm encouragement to the South Korean students and people of all strata in their heroic struggle under the uplifted banner of anti-U.S. independence, reunification and national salvation and will continue, hand in hand with them, to wage the vigorous struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Korean-Soviet friendship is of weighty significance in developing and strengthening the socialist forces and the international communist movement and defending peace in Asia and the world.

It has been developing onto a higher stage since the historic meetings and talks of Comrade Kim Il-song with the party and state leaders of the Soviet Union. We will make all our efforts to develop the traditional Korean-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation in a more comprehensive way.

Wreaths Placed at Cemetery

*SK1508094388 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0932 GMT 15 Aug 88*

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—Wreaths were laid today at the Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs on Mt. Taesong, the Liberation Tower and the Cemetery of Officers and Men of the Soviet Army in the joint name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of national liberation.

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony were Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau to the WPK Central Committee, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; Yi Chong-yul, minister of public health and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship

Society; Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; Chon Mun-sop, general of the Korean People's Army; Yi In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs; and other officials concerned.

Guards of honor of the Korean People's Army lined up at the Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs on Mt. Taesong, the liberation tower and the Cemetery of Soviet Army Officers and Men.

Also laid there were wreaths in the name of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of External Economic Affairs, the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth, the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People, the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society and party, power and administrative and economic organs of Pyongyang Municipality.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang laid wreaths at these places today.

The Soviet Consulate General in Chongjin and Soviet guests laid wreaths at the Liberation Tower and the Cemetery of Soviet Army Officers and Men in Chongjin.

Kim Il-song Cables Soviet Leaders

*SK1408083788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0828 GMT 14 Aug 88*

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on August 14 to Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Comrade Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the 43rd anniversary of Korea's liberation.

Noting that the Korean people embarked upon a broad avenue of building new Korea free from exploitation and oppression after August 15, when they together with the Soviet Army defeated Japanese imperialism and achieved the historic cause of national liberation, the message says:

After the liberation, our people successfully carried out different stages of social revolution in the northern half under the leadership of our party despite the difficult conditions caused by the split of the country and the nation and built a prosperous, independent and sovereign socialist state and are continuously making strenuous efforts to achieve the complete victory of socialism

and promote the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

The August 15 liberation marked a new milestone in the development of the friendly relations between Korea and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet people not only actively supported and helped our people in the struggle to defend the security of the country and the gains of the revolution from imperialist aggression and build a new society but also are expressing firm solidarity with our people in the just cause of socialist construction and the peaceful reunification of the country.

The Korean people positively support the Soviet party, government and people in the struggle to promote socioeconomic development, deepen the perestroika, establish a comprehensive international security system, realise nuclear disarmament and build a world free from war.

The traditional relations of friendship and cooperation forged between the two parties, two countries and two peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism are developing in depth with each passing day in all fields in the spirit agreed upon at the summit meetings between the two countries.

We are satisfied at this and believe that the Korean-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation will further expand and develop through the common struggle for peace and victory of the cause of socialism and communism.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and the Soviet people greater success in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the decision of the 19th All-Union Conference of the Party and defend peace and security in Europe, Asia and the rest of the world.

Soviets Send Greetings

*SK1408084588 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0837 GMT 14 Aug 88*

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Comrade Yi Kun-mo, premier of the Administration Council, received a message of greetings on August 14 from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the 43rd anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The message says:

The peoples of our two countries valuably keep in their memory the days of battles in the summer of 1945 when the Soviet Army dealt a decisive blow at Japanese imperialism and the cherished desire of the Korean patriots who fought for the freedom and liberation of Korea was realised.

August 15, the day of liberation, opened a favorable prospect for the Korean people to carry out serious democratic reforms and build a new society free from exploitation and social inequality.

Over the past 43 years, the fraternal Korean people under the leadership of their vanguard, the Workers' Party of Korea, have made great achievements in building socialism in Korea, energetically carrying out vast economic and cultural tasks.

The Soviet people are sincerely rejoiced at these achievements made by the working people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and express firm solidarity with the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government in their consistent line of relaxing the tensions on the Korean peninsula and consolidating peace in the Far East.

The Soviet people warmly support the line of peacefully reunifying Korea by means of involving broad segments of political and social forces in the North and the South in this course.

It is noted with satisfaction in the Soviet Union that the many-sided Soviet-Korean relations are effectively developing in accordance with the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance signed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the solid basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

The Soviet people hold that bilateral cooperation should be further developed in politics, economy, culture and international affairs.

The development of our two countries onto a new stage and maximum display of their potentials contribute to strengthening the position and influence of socialism in the world.

On behalf of the Soviet people, we wish you and the entire working people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea new success in the building of socialism, the carrying out of the decisions of the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the struggle to reunify Korea on a peaceful and democratic principle.

No Tae-u Remarks on Liberation Day Denounced

SK1608105188 (Clandestine) Voice of National
Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0200 GMT
16 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] During this hour I would like to talk about the so-called congratulatory speech of No Tae-u, pitiful gibberish by the pro-U.S. dictator.

On 15 August, No Tae-u made a so-called congratulatory speech in connection with the 43rd anniversary of the 15 August national liberation. In this speech, he made absurd remarks about the Seoul Olympics, democracy, reunification, and so forth.

No word in his speech is worth hearing, and all of his utterances are merely replicas of his previous remarks and preposterous gibberish not worth even consideration.

The remarks of No Tae-u, who is not entitled to appear at the site of celebrating the anniversary of national liberation, are indeed disgusting, and should not be overlooked. His remarks, first of all, distorted and insulted the Olympics. While talking about 1988 Olympics in his so-called congratulatory speech, No Tae-u raved as if the Olympics would contribute to peace and serve as a springboard for entering the ranks of the advanced nations. This is indeed preposterous.

It is clear to the entire world that the No Tae-u group is using the sacred Olympics for perpetuating division and extending the military dictatorship under the instigation of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries. The No Tae-u group has induced the Olympics into Seoul, which is not adequate as the venue of the Olympics, and maneuvered for cross-contact and cross-recognition by taking all possible steps, including inviting diplomacy, begging diplomacy, and following northward diplomacy under the instigation of the United States and Japan.

Moreover, under the pretext of the No Tae-u group safely holding the Olympics, reinforcing combat forces, including the U.S. troops and Japanese self-defense forces, has been accelerated. These forces are running amok with war exercises in the seas around the Korean peninsula.

What would be promoted by the Olympics is not peace on the Korean peninsula, but the danger of war, and what would be (?strengthened) by the Olympics is colonial subjugation. Nevertheless, No Tae-u has raved about contributing to peace and so forth. His remarks are indeed absurd.

In his speech, No Tae-u babbled that the act of destroying liberal democracy would not be tolerated, while raving as if he will achieve democracy. This is also shameful gibberish.

The liberal democratic system babbled about by No Tae-u is another version of the military dictatorial system. His remark about not allowing the act of attempting to overthrow the political system indicates his intention to mercilessly repress the anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle for democratization of the students and the masses from all walks of life who are opposed to the colonial military dictatorship.

While talking about economic stability and development, No Tae-u raved as if he would guide our people to paradise. However, his remark is also a deception of the people and a sophism that stresses the people's obedience to his dictatorial regime.

What we should not overlook is that No Tae-u ran amok to turn public opinion favorable while again raving about the reunification issue in which he is not interested. Pretending that he is interested in reunification, he stated that the North and the South should open the era of dialogue and agreement and that reconciliation, cooperation, opening up, and exchanges, not confrontation and competition, should be realized, thus making one feel awkward.

If No Tae-u is truly interested in reunification and reconciliation, not confrontation, between the North and the South, he should have talked about the withdrawal of U.S. troops—the obstacle to reunification—from South Korea. If he is interested, even slightly, in grand harmony and cooperation between the North and the South, he should not block (?discussion) of the reunification issue by the masses from all walks of life, including the North-South student talks.

He mercilessly blocked at the source the 10 June North-South student talks, the 15 August North-South student talks, and (?discussion) of reunification by the masses from all walks of life. How can he be entitled to talk about reunification and cooperation with the North?

No Tae-u also stressed the 7 July declaration while describing it as a reunification plan. However, it is nothing but a splittist declaration designed to perpetuate division. Viewing all this, the so-called congratulatory speech by No Tae-u is a replica of the nation-selling splittist remarks made by former dictators, showing the pitiful writhing of a pro-U.S. traitor.

Our masses will not be deceived by No Tae-u's cunning trick. They will more courageously wage the anti-U.S. and anti-No Tae-u struggle they have already begun.

Plans To Suppress Student Talks Condemned

SK1608084388 (Clandestine) Voice of National
Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0200 GMT
14 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] During this hour of station commentary, I will talk about the No Tae-u group's fascist tyranny to completely block the 15 August North-South student talks.

The No Tae-u ring's frantic fascist maneuvers to completely block the great cross-country march and the 15 August North-South student talks and cause them to go up in thin air have now reached a culmination.

The No Tae-u ring, which has completely blocked the students from inaugurating the great cross-country march by employing tens of thousands of suppressive policemen, brutally suppressed the National Federation of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop], which tried to hold a citizens' meeting on 12 August in a plaza in front of the Taejon railroad station as part of the 15 August North-South student talks, by employing about 200 companies of suppressive police, approximately 30,000 policemen, and then illegally took many students to police stations.

Since 10 August, the No Tae-u group has illegally taken about (?2,400) students from across the country and has committed such a tyrannical act as taking into custody seven students, including (Chon Sang-u), former president of the student body at Seoul National University, on charges of violating assembly and demonstration laws.

That the No Tae-u ring has mercilessly suppressed events of various kinds held in connection with the 15 August North-South student talks, has taken the patriotic students en masse into custody, and has run riot to put on a wanted list and arrest student leaders once again proves that the ring is an antinational and [word indistinct] group of people who do not want national reconciliation or unity.

If and when the students from the North and the South carry out the great cross-country march, respectively from Mt Paektu and Mt Halla, to Panmunjom and meet there, it will serve to reconnect the severed national bloodline and the vein of national territory and hasten national reconciliation and unity, something that should never be suppressed under any circumstances.

The 15 August North-South student talks that the students are pushing ahead is a patriotic reunification movement to remove national division and the state of confrontation that have continued for over the past 40 years and to hasten national reconciliation and reunification. This is why not only the students, but also the entire population support and encourage the undertaking.

This notwithstanding, the No Tae-u ring, after mapping out a plan to completely block the North-South student talks on the grounds that they are detrimental to successfully hosting the Olympics or that they are an indiscreet act that undermines social stability, has issued a suppressive order placing student leaders on a wanted list and arresting them. This is nothing but an intolerable crime.

This shows that although the No Tae-u ring pays lip service to reunification and the North-South student talks, in reality it has not the slightest interest in reunification.

Whether one supports the great cross-country march and the North-South student talks or opposes them can be said to be a yardstick for measuring whether one aspires for reunification or takes a splittist stand and distinguishes between patriotism and treachery.

Now, how can anyone say that the No Tae-u ring wants reconciliation and reunification after seeing his acts as such?

If the No Tae-u ring genuinely hopes for national reconciliation and reunification, it should actively support the students' reunification movement and offer them all the conveniences they need instead of attempting to cause their talks to go awry. The ring should also unconditionally release the arrested and detained students without delay and withdraw the order for their arrest and remove their names from the wanted list.

If the No Tae-u ring causes the 15 August North-South student talks to go up in thin air once again, running counter to the trend of the times and public opinion, it will never be able to dodge the enormous denunciation and protest of the entire population.

Since our students who, after putting forward a proposal for the 15 August student talks, have pushed ahead with it, know well that they cannot achieve the North-South student reunion without a bloody confrontation with the No Tae-u ring, they will employ all manner of ways and means in their struggle to make the 15 August North-South student talks a success in defiance of fascist suppression of any kind.

All the people in the country should actively support and encourage the students' patriotic movement for reunification so as to make it come to substantial fruition.

South Korea

Further on Attempted Student March to Panmunjom

Students Clash with Police

SK1508230988 Seoul YONHAP in English
1342 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean riot police firing tear gas dispersed radical students trying to march to the truce village of Panmunjom Monday for talks with North Korean students.

Thousands of students, holding red and blue banners, hurled gasoline bombs and sticks at police in desperate efforts to break through a watertight police blockade around Seoul's Yonsei University.

Fighting broke out late in the morning as police in green combat fatigues and black helmets blocked students immediately after they started to come out of the main gate of the school.

About four thousand students assembled on the campus to try to march to the border village straddling the Demilitarized Zone dividing South and North Korea. Among the students were those who came from provincial colleges and universities to celebrate the 43rd anniversary of Korea's liberation from the 35-year Japanese colonial rule.

Waves of students hurling Molotov cocktails charged police, whose armored vans with multiple tear gas launchers fired tear gas shells at the screaming students. Police dragged away scores of students, punching and kicking them.

Sporadic but fierce street clashes were reported in other parts of Seoul as hundreds of student activists tried to stage protests or reach train stations to go to the North Korean border. But thousands of riot police quickly broke up protests and seized the radical students before they could reach railway stations or demonstrate.

The students attempted to press ahead with their planned march despite a request from all major opposition political parties to postpone their Panmunjom meeting with North Korean students until after the Seoul summer Olympics which begin on Sept. 17.

The government banned the march and deployed 20,000 riot police in Seoul to stop it. The envisioned South-North Korean students' talks had been scheduled for 3 p.m. (KST) at the border village.

Riot police squads guarded key locations throughout this capital and roads leading to Panmunjom, 50 kilometers to the North.

Police reported that they made more than 1,280 arrests as of 5 p.m. in addition to having made 1,523 arrests on Sunday, when street clashes between students and riot police took place in several spots of Seoul such as Yonsei University in western Seoul and Tongsung-dong's Taehangno in downtown Seoul.

Nearly 100 protesters and policemen were reportedly injured in the battles which took place on Sunday. Four hundred and fifty-three of the arrested Sunday are being probed by police while the rest of them were released after admonition.

A similar attempt to march to the border site on June 10 was also blocked by riot police. The turnout for Monday's march attempt was considerably smaller than on June 10.

The Korean peninsula was divided into the communist North and capitalist South at the end of World War II. North Korea invaded the South on June 25, 1950, starting the fratricidal three-year Korean war before fighting stopped with an Armistice Treaty signed in 1953.

Radical South Korean students have seized on the reunification issue to try to mobilize public support for their anti-government campaign.

The students say they are not communists, but insist Korea must be reunited immediately with political differences being worked out later.

The South Korean Government says that it should be the sole official channel between South and North Korea, insisting that the North has only one voice although the South has a free democratic system.

The radicals, who had battled police at Yonsei University for the past three days, were unable to get past riot police surrounding the campus.

Parties Ask Students To Delay Talks

SK1608012388 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 16 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Four rival parties called on students to postpone south-north student talks until sometime after the Seoul Olympic Games.

Pak Chun-pyong, secretary-general of the ruling DJP, said yesterday that the strong push for student talks is hampering enforcement of law and order and causing uneasiness among the general public.

Pointing out that the government is doing its utmost for democratization with a forward-looking attitude toward the south-north student talks, Pak said the vast majority of the people support the postponement of the student talks at this time.

The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy also issued a statement Sunday urging students to put off the south-north student talks until after the Seoul Olympics.

The forcible push for student talks is feared to bring about "unexpected" political repercussions detrimental to the democratization process.

The Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party also came out with comments calling for postponement of the south-north student talks for the successful staging of the Seoul Olympics.

PPD president Kim Tae-chung has called on student activists to consider the people's conservative character in pushing their causes.

"Whether their demands are right or not, both students and political parties should wait until they get public support," Kim said.

"Through a series of recent activities, the students must have realized the significance of winning public support," he said, adding that he wants students to postpone their plan to meet with north Korean students.

Government Urged To Allow Talks

SK1608041088 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 11 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Let Mt Paektu and Mt Halla Meet With Each Other--The Students Are Flexible, Whereas the Government is Unbending"]

[Text] At the peak of the summer, an unheard of event, something the world has never witnessed, is now taking place at the foot of the Mt Halla, where trees and grasses are generating stifling heat. When the students who had proposed North-South student talks attempted to go to the top of the mountain to hold a meeting to inaugurate a great cross-country march bound for Panmunjom, policemen with walkie talkies and clubs blocked their uphill march. Pyongyang is a long journey although it is geographically so close. This cross-country march was to be the first step toward reuniting our fellow countrymen, who have had no choice but to live separated from each other for 43 years.

The police even took to the police station the students who went up to the top of the mountain. They had broken through a murderous cordon thrown up by the police, sung a song on the mountain entitled "Reunification is Our Desire," and then had come down with the soil of Mt Halla on their backs.

This clearly reminds us of an event that happened just 2 months ago. When some 20,000 [figure as published] South Korean students gathered on the campus of Yonsei University and began their march toward North Korea, shouting slogans such as "Let us go to the North!" and "Let us meet at Panmunjom!", the police showered tear gas on them and trampled them under their military boots. A shower of tear gas was also poured on the students who cried reunification at the top of their voices while lying on the pavement at a Hongje-Dong crossroad. Overseas compatriots who saw this on television said they had trembled with shame and indignation.

Why do the students want to go up Mt Halla and march toward Panmunjom? It is because over the past 40 years the successive dictatorial regimes and the alien forces that embraced them either have stood in the way of reunification or encouraged confrontation rather than national reconciliation. The young people in the North and South now want to cut off the steel wire called division by meeting with each other and having heart-to-heart discussions. The workers, peasants, religious figures, men of letters, and educators, not to mention

public movement organizations, in the South are actively supporting the students. Only the regime, some privileged classes, and some people and groups that are steeped in cold-war ideology now denounce the student movement as "revolutionary strategy and as something designed to spoil the Olympics and that bears too close a resemblance to the North's consistent assertions."

The government says it will remain the sole channel for dialogue with the North and will arrange for the students to have talks after the Olympics. The National Federation of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] made it clear that it would exclude political and military issues, issues that the government would like the students to avoid discussing, from the agenda. This is a de facto organization of student representatives that has rallied student bodies at some 70 universities and colleges across the country to its cause. Why time after time does the government ignore Chondaehyop's flexible proposal? Who else can speak better for the students?

Logic is important for reunification, but passion and fraternity are much more important for reunification. Let the youths in the South bring soil from Mt. Halla and their counterparts in the North bring tree leaves from Mt. Paektu to the Demilitarized Zone and meet with each other. When they get carried away after initial emotion and engage themselves in the so-called "political propaganda," the observers accompanying them will bring them back on the track, with love. The meeting between Mt Paektu and Mt Halla is an enormous stream of national history that no force on earth can stop.

Former President Choe Rejects Motion To Testify

SK1608013988 Seoul YONHAP in English
0120 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—Former President Choe Kyu-ha has rejected a parliamentary motion calling for his testimony before an ad hoc panel on government and military actions during the 1980 civil uprising in Kwangju.

Citing the possibility of being drawn into political strife, Choe has told government and ruling party officials that he will not appear at the ad hoc panel or give testimony in any manner on the issue.

An ad hoc panel of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, in a move apparently aimed at setting a precedent for similar testimony by former President Chon Tu-hwan, voted for Choe to give testimony before it after the panel's ruling party members walked out of a committee session in protest on Aug. 12.

It was the first time in South Korea's 40-year history of modern politics that parliament voted to hear testimony before it by a former head of state.

Choe, the last prime minister under President Pak Chong-hui who was assassinated by his intelligence chief in October 1979, was president shortly after Pak's death until September 1980 when Chon took over the office.

A close aide to Choe, who declined to be named, said Tuesday that Choe is firmly convinced that he will not testify on the decisions he made during his tenure as head of state even though he might face prosecution for his rejection of parliament's demand.

Choe, thus, thinks he cannot testify either in indirect ways like submitting written answers to the National Assembly or holding a press conference to clarify himself, the aide said.

The aide said Choe did not want to establish the precedent for a former head of state to present himself before parliament as a witness. Moreover, he thinks that he might be dragged into political strife between the ruling and opposition parties rather than be help in the efforts to find out the truth, the aide said.

However, Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, floor leader of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, said Choe would be able to provide testimony in indirect ways at a proper time, if his testimony would be helpful in the conclusions of the ad hoc panel's probe.

This method could be applied to testimony by former President Chon for an ad hoc panel probing the alleged corruption under Chon's government, he said.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties are planning to call for Choe to be prosecuted if he ignores parliament's demand for his appearance and testimony before the ad hoc panel investigating the Kwangju uprising.

Travel Ban Imposed on Chon Tu-Hwan Relatives
OW1608121888 Tokyo KYODO in English
1159 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 KYODO—The South Korean Ministry of Justice here Tuesday clamped travel restrictions on 14 relatives of former President Chon Tu-hwan as requested by a parliamentary investigation panel looking into alleged irregularities carried out under his rule.

The ban on foreign travel will not, however, apply to Chon or his wife, Yi Sun-cha as a measure of courtesy to the former leader and first lady, a high-level ministry official said.

The official added that the ministry will probably have to assume responsibility if the couple is not in the country when summoned to testify against the charges.

Opposition party members of a special National Assembly panel, over objections from the ruling Democratic Justice Party, requested the Justice Ministry on August 5 to ban all 16 from leaving the country while the investigations into corruption under Chon are under way.

Opposition members allege that Chon and his relatives embezzled or misappropriated government funds in the amount of over a trillion won during Chon's seven-year rule.

Included in the ban are Chon's brothers Ki-hwan and Kyong-hwan, father-in-law Yi Kyu-tong, and brothers-in-law Hong Sun-tu and Yi Chang-suk.

DJP Under Pressure on Probe
SK1408001388 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 14 Aug 88 p 2, 3

["New Analysis" by staff reporter Sim Yong-su: "Panel's Move To Probe Chon Puts DJP Under Pressure; Opposition Adamant in Clarifying Facts"]

[Text] Opposition members of a special National Assembly committee have been increasing pressure on former President Chon Tu-hwan and relatives to testify before the panel on scandals involving them.

On Aug. 3, in the absence of its ruling party members, the panel passed a motion to ban Chon, his wife and 14 of their relatives from leaving the country.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party has complained against having the former First Couple investigated. It claimed that the proposed investigation is a discourtesy to a former President who has set a tradition of peaceful transfer of power.

Chon left office Feb. 24 at the end of a single seven-year term. He rose to power after President Pak Chong-hui was assassinated in October of 1979.

The corruption allegedly committed by the former President and his relatives, in the people's view, well outweighs Chon's merit of setting the tradition.

Opposition politicians claimed the Chon family embezzled or misappropriated over a trillion won of state money during Chon's seven-year rule.

Chon kept silent. But his closest aides dismissed the opposition charges as largely based on hearsay.

The panel, headed by Rep. Yi Ki-taek of the No. 2 opposition RDP, is preparing to take the next step: to summon the former First Couple to give their own accounts of the allegations.

However, the future of the panel is uncertain. The ruling party threatened to boycott the panel activities unless the opposition revokes the Aug. 3 passage of the motion.

The DJP denounced the opposition's unilateral action as an attempt to bring down the National Assembly.

Latest opinion polls surprisingly showed that the DJP was trailing the No. 1 opposition PPD in popularity, something unprecedented.

The reason was the ruling party's lackluster performance in looking into the Chon government's alleged corruption.

Speculation is arising that No may take drastic steps after the Seoul Olympics to clear the issue once and for all.

According to a law passed by the Assembly in July, anyone who fails to comply to summons is to be prosecuted.

However, the ruling party pledged that it will do whatever is necessary to prevent Chon from being summoned.

Chon hand-picked No as the DJP candidate for the bitterly-contested Dec. 16, 1987, election.

No won the vote with a 37 percent plurality over his two rivals, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam.

On Aug. 3, a group of college students claiming to represent dissident forces at colleges across the nation said they would execute Chon unless the government arrested him.

The students, who identified themselves as members of the National Students Representatives Council, said that they would set up a death squad unless their demand was met.

Late this month when college campuses reopen after two months of summer recess, the anti-Chon family campaign is expected to flare up.

In a conciliatory gesture, the DJP said recently that it was willing to consider Chon's indirect testimony to the panel through a third person or a written testimony.

But the opposition simply turned it down as an act ignoring popular sentiment.

Another ad hoc National Assembly panel is expected to summon Chon to recount his role in the bloody Kwangju incident of 1980.

Dissident college students and some opposition politicians branded Chon a mastermind of the incident in which nearly 200 civilians and soldiers, according to government figures, were killed.

At the time of the incident, Chon was in control of power as commander of the powerful Korean Central Intelligence Agency, the predecessor of the Agency for National Security Planning.

The panel is embroiled in a dispute over whether the then President Choe Kyu-ha should testify.

The mounting interparty confrontation over the two panels' activities added to becloud the already dim political landscape after the Olympics.

Speculation is rife that it could spill over into a major political crisis.

A political crisis could be avoided as long as No notes that there are still many people who believe he will keep his famous election phrase: [sentence incomplete as published]

Seoul Designates Olympic 'Peace Districts'

SK1608011388 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 16 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] All but 37 of Seoul's 475 "dongs" have been declared "peace districts" with demonstrations and politically oriented rallies banned during the Seoul Olympics.

The 37 dongs include Mia and Panghak, both in Tobong-g, Chungnung in Songbuk-gu and part of Sillim in Kwanak-gu, the Seoul municipal government announced yesterday. Those areas are far away from the Olympic competition venues, the announcement said.

In the "peace districts," all demonstrations and public assemblies, except academic, athletic, artistic and religious ones, are banned under a special law passed July 23. The measure, promulgated Aug. 5, will remain in force Aug. 15-Oct. 31.

The non-peace districts have no accommodation facilities for Olympic athletes, officials or foreign visitors and the Olympic torch does not pass by the areas, one official said.

The central government will also include many areas in Pusan, Taegu and Taejon in which some Olympic sports will be staged in the list of "peace districts."

People who rally or demonstrate in the peace districts will be arrested. They will be punished under the Law Governing Assemblies and Demonstrations.

Dissidents and militant students have voiced opposition to the law. Opposition parties, however, jointly worked for the passage of the legislation.

Meanwhile, the city government will make an "Olympic peace statement" at Posin-gak, in downtown Seoul, Wednesday to mark the Olympic 31-day countdown.

Bells will toll 24 times at Poshin-gak and all churches and Buddhist temples in the capital to symbolize the 24th Seoul Olympics.

Fireworks will be set off at Mt. Nam.

Deadline for North's Olympic Application Set
SK1308002988 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
13 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Sports Minister Cho Sang-ho said yesterday that North Korea, if it intends to take part in the Seoul Olympics, should apply for participation no later than Sept. 2.

The Seoul Games are to open Sept. 17.

In a report to President No Tae-u, Cho said, "The door is still open for North Korea's participation in the Seoul Olympics, but the deadline is Sept. 2."

He said that all has been prepared for the possible coming of North Korea to Seoul.

The report session held at the Olympic Center was also attended by leaders of the nation's political parties.

The sports minister made it clear that it is no longer possible for North Korea to share some events as proposed by the International Olympic Committee [IOC].

"North Korea will be able to join the Seoul Olympics only as a member country of the IOC," said the minister.

North Korea had insisted on co-hosting the Seoul Olympic Games, rejecting the offer of the IOC and the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee to allow it to host five events.

The five events were a soccer preliminary, table tennis, archery, women's volleyball and road race cycling.

Sports Minister Cho recalled that the IOC and the International Federations (IF) have already made it clear that it is impossible to distribute Olympic events to North Korea due to operational problems.

Political Activity To Cease During Olympics
SK1408021788 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
14 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Political activities will slide to a temporary halt around the Olympic period as a result of a mutual understanding by rival parties that the games are the most crucial task facing the country at the present moment.

The Democratic Justice Party will arrange a meeting by President No Tae-u and opposition leaders at Chongwadae around the end of this month to declare a halt to political strife.

DJP floor leader Kim Yun-hwan said yesterday that the government party and the administration have already planned details of the Chongwadae talk to "create an atmosphere of harmony for the sports festival."

No and the opposition leaders shared the identical view Friday that they should help make the Olympics a success though Kim Tae-chung, president of the largest opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, differed on minor points.

The PPD took a more flexible posture in an expanded meeting of officials yesterday and decided to suspend parliamentary activities before and after the games.

It decided to leave the business of the seven special Assembly panels at the discretion of panel members from both camps.

Even if parliamentary special committees keep running through the period, PPD floor leader Kim Won-ki said, their actions will be restrained in order not to prick the ruling camp and create political tension.

He said, "The successful hosting of the Olympics is the mandate of the people. Sensitive issues will not be taken up at the special panel sessions."

He added that he would meet his DJP counterpart to discuss a short-term political timetable and the Chongwadae meeting, if it is brought up by Kim Yun-hwan first.

Kim Yong-sam, president of the rather moderate Reunification Democratic Party, made it clearer that the RDP would comply with a DJP proposal for a cease-fire in all political activities.

He said that even the hectic fact-finding committees on Kwangju and irregularities of the Chon Tu-hwan administration will hopefully suspend business until after the end of the Olympics.

The Kwangju panel is headed by Mun Tong-hwan of the PPD and the irregularities panel by Yi Ki-taek of the second largest opposition party, the RDP.

The ex-ruling group, the New Democratic Republican Party is very willing to cooperate with the DJP as far as the Olympic Games are concerned.

It agreed to make a concerted effort with the DJP to contribute to the "peaceful" Olympics.

Concurring with the DJP's theory, it reasoned that there is no need to expose "something smelling" to foreign guests during the international sports meet.

No's Proposal Different From Predecessors

SK1608014388 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 16 Aug 88 p 2

["News Analysis" by staff reporter Kim Hak-kyong: "No S-N Summit Proposal Accents Openness to Pyongyang"]

[Text] President No Tae-u's proposal for a meeting with Kim Il-song highlights a series of bold overtures he has made to revamp inter-Korea relations.

No is not the first President to propose a south-north summit, but his offer appears to carry special meaning.

It should be noted that the proposal comes just over a month after his July 7 declaration, which contained six practical ways to end the rivalry between the two Koreas but was flatly rejected by the north.

Declaring that north Korea is no longer the south's No. 1 enemy, No vowed to implement measures to improve ties regardless of the north's response.

A summit with Kim Il-song, No said, would be the most effective and quickest way to resolve all issues between the two parts of Korea.

It would be difficult for No, to think of any better idea than that after his well-intended overtures were dismissed as fraudulent.

In the July declaration, No expressed his willingness to help Pyongyang improve its relations with Seoul's allies, including the United States and Japan.

Pyongyang probably knows better than anyone else that such an offer could not come from a country that regards it as an enemy.

No has also lifted Seoul's opposition to trade between its allies and Pyongyang as long as no military goods are involved, while suggesting that he would regard inter-Korea trade as internal trade free from customs restrictions.

Despite the concessionary nature of No's offers, Pyongyang assailed them as propaganda, showing no conciliatory gesture.

Considering north Korea's consistent opposition to Seoul's offers, No's latest proposal is most likely to be unwelcomed.

But political watchers say there is a chance Pyongyang will accept the proposal, pointing out that, since 1985, the north has on several occasions offered a south-north summit.

Pyongyang, however, has never failed to attach strings to its offers.

Saying that it is imperative for the top leaders of south and north to meet for a dialogue No made it clear he will go anywhere and discuss anything.

This openness implies that No is willing to discuss sensitive issues such as signing a nonaggression pact and arms reduction that were not mentioned in his July 7 declaration, political observers said.

In this context, No's proposal for a summit is clearly different from those made by his predecessors, they added.

To improve ties between south and north, the most important task is to wipe out mutual distrust. The south has begun this by no longer regarding the north as an enemy.

By proposing talks with Kim Il-song, No is demanding the north follow suit and open itself to the south. He also wants it to realize that domestic and international realities call for a summit without any delay.

The proposal also implies that face-to-face talks are the best way to build mutual trust and that the barriers between the south and north can be dismantled by means of openness, exchanges and cooperation.

No Tae-u Seeking Political National Miracle

SK1608004188 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
16 Aug 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Song-pok]

[Text] President No Tae-u is seeking the reshaping of South-North relationships, riding over favorable circumstances surrounding the Korean peninsula, after the Seoul Olympics.

His proposal yesterday for talks with North Korean leader Kim Il-song is not expected to be picked up immediately by Pyongyang but may be answered when relations between Seoul and Communist giants such as Moscow and Beijing, which are major allies of Pyongyang, improve after the Olympics.

No's predecessors have made similar proposals for talks of the highest responsible authorities between the South and the north, but Pyongyang has denounced it as a "scheme to perpetuate the division of two Koreas."

However, since 1985 North Korea has suggested its intention to agree with the proposals for a meeting between presidents of the divided halves, although it came up with some "conditions."

The conditions, which the North has presented, included a holding of a "three-way" parley, involving Washington, Seoul, and Pyongyang, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

Last year, North Korea aired its willingness to hold the highest authorities' conference "depending on the results" of Pyongyang-proposed arms reduction talks between the two divided halves.

President No is also zeroing in on taking initiative in the post-Olympics domestic politics in which the opposition is expected to further mount political offensives against him and his government.

No is pressed to make "political decisions" on a heap of problems which were left behind his predecessor Chon Tu-hwan. They include the revelation of the true picture of the 1980 tragic Kwangju uprising and irregularities committed by Chon's administration.

If No successfully pursues his policy toward national unification after the Olympics, he may evade bitter political offensives by the opposition camp.

The success in his efforts for improved relationships with North Korea will also help No reduce the self-imposed political burden for an "interim assessment" on his fulfillment of his campaign promises. He pledged that he will ask the people's confidence after the Seoul Olympics.

On top of this, he had promised that he will arrange an epoch to reshape inter-Korean relations, ending the 43-year-old animosity with each other, during his five-year tenure, which ends in 1992.

In this context, No has pursued a policy of improving relationships with the Soviet Union, China, and Eastern European nations in his belief that the development is certain to press North Korea to ease its stance toward the South.

In fact, Seoul has achieved a remarkable progress in its ties with Moscow, Beijing, and other socialist nations in Europe, although the relationships still remain in non-political fields such as economy, cultural, and sports. The ties will be expanded to the political arena after the Seoul Olympics, political observers said.

No's July 7 declaration, featuring the termination of hostile inter-Korean ties and the promotion of partnership for national prosperity, stands on Seoul's confidence derived from its "miracle" economic achievements as well as political progress during a relatively short period.

But No is currently facing many challenges from left-tilting segments, who demand early national unification in an imprudent manner.

That's why No made it clear in his address at a ceremony marking the 43rd National Liberation Day that the government will no longer tolerate the groups which destroy law and order and attempts to topple the liberal democratic system.

No said, "Now is the time for the people to stabilize the democratic system and consolidate our gains by promoting the free but orderly participation of citizens in the political progress."

He also declared that the priority of economic policy after the Seoul Olympics will be placed on the steady growth of economy based on stability.

However, No's political dreams for improved ties with socialist countries, sustained economic development, and a peaceful national unification will be possible only after a successful hosting of the Olympics, which is only a month away.

Military Reportedly Fired First Shot at Kwangju
SK1308001588 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
13 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] The Defense Ministry disclosed yesterday that the military used rifles against Kwangju protesters first at 1:30 p.m. on May 21, 1980.

In a report to the Assembly Kwangju panel, it said, "The martial-law troops opened fire at that time when armed protesters marched towards them in front of the Chollanam-do provincial office hurling petrol bombs."

They were blank shots, it said, quoting an operations diary kept by the Combat Training Command in Kwangju.

Earlier, the 31st Infantry Division under the command of Chong Ung, a lawmaker of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, asked for permission to fire to safeguard a military arsenal.

The martial-law commander warned at 7:30 p.m. on that day that the Army would take measures for "self-defense" from armed demonstrators at 7:30 p.m. on that day.

The shoot-out order for "self-defense" was issued by the provincial martial-law commander in charge of Chollapuk-do and Chollnam-do on May 21, and by the Army martial-law commander at 10:30 a.m. on May 22.

The chief martial-law commander's issuance of the order came one and a half hours later, according to the report.

As to the dispatch of special airborne troops, it said that the 33rd batalion and 35th batalion of the seventh brigade were respectively positioned at Chonnam and Choson University campuses, both in Kwangju, at dawn on May 18.

The 11th brigade was additionally sent to Choson at 2:40 a.m. on May 19 and the 3rd brigade to Chonnam at 7:35 a.m. on May 20.

The airborne troops were withdrawn to the Kwangju suburbs in the afternoon of May 21 with the massive protests gradually coming under control.

Choe Kwang-su Discusses Major Achievements

SK1408004988 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD

(Supplement) in English 14 Aug 88 p 3

[“Full text” of interview with Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of THE KOREA HERALD]

[Text] Question: What do you see is your major achievement as foreign minister and what will be given the priority in the days ahead?

Answer: First of all, I would like to congratulate the 35th anniversary of THE KOREA HERALD, a leading English daily.

I am very delighted to have this special interview with THE KOREA HERALD in commemoration of its anniversary.

In a little less than two years in office as foreign minister, I have made utmost efforts to improve our relations with the USSR, China and other Communist countries, making the most of two positive conditions, which were the new mood of rapprochement between the United States and the USSR and the hosting of the 24th Summer Olympic Games in Seoul this year. Considerable developments have been made especially in nonpolitical fields during the last couple of years.

I have endeavored to promote our ties with friendly countries including the United States, Japan, European and Southeast Asian countries. There were four foreign ministers' meetings with the United States and six meetings with Japan. I also made official visits to many European and Asian countries.

In the past two years, there were some diplomatic contingencies, which were well tided over, or even turned into assets on the basis of our strengthened national resources and improved diplomatic skills. Kim Man-chol and his family, who were the first family to defect from north Korea, were safely brought to Korea. To Choe-song, second secretary of our embassy in Lebanon who had been abducted by terrorists, safely returned to Korea. The bombing of a commercial airliner, KAL [Korean Air] Flight 858, by north Korea was condemned by many countries of the world and at international forums such as the United Nations Security Council and the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization], so that north Korea would be effectively deterred from further acts of terrorism.

In the days to come, our diplomatic resources will be concentrated on holding the 24th Summer Olympic Games in Seoul safely and successfully, improving relations with China, the USSR and other Eastern European countries, and resuming constructive dialogue between south and north Korea.

As was declared by President No Tae-u through the special declaration on July 7, our diplomacy will move away from the old ways of confrontation and competition with north Korea. We will make more efforts to induce north Korea to join us in our efforts to work for peace, unification and prosperity on the Korean peninsula as well as for world peace and stability.

Q: Many agree that U.S. influences in Asia are decreasing. What kind of changes will it bring about to the security of Asia and what are the government's strategies to cope with them?

A: As the rapid economic growth of the Asian and Pacific nations signifies the advent of the Pacific era, there merge increasingly numerous national centers of economic strength and political power. Under these circumstances, the structure of collective security will be more necessary than ever in maintaining peace and stability of the region.

The United States has recognized the importance of this region and repeatedly made it clear that it will play an active role as a Pacific power. The nations in the region, for their part, will continue to require close cooperation with the United States. Therefore, I believe that any rapid change in the current security arrangement in Asia will not take place in the foreseeable future.

The Korean government, while maintaining its traditionally close security cooperation with the United States, works closely with it to forge a more mature partnership in the years ahead. At the same time, we will continue to promote the “Northern Diplomacy.” As we pursue enhanced relationships with China and the Soviet Union through the accumulation of nonpolitical exchanges, they can eventually be persuaded to make positive contributions to reducing tension and establishing peace on the Korean peninsula.

Q: President No has not made any overseas trips since his inauguration in February. Does he have plans for overseas trips this year?

A: Nowadays, summit diplomacy plays an increasing role in international relations. It is for this obvious reason that summit diplomacy is becoming one of the most useful and effective means of diplomacy.

As for any specific plan for President No's overseas trip this year, I am not in a position to say anything definite at this time.

Q: Reconciliation with north Korea seems to be a prerequisite to further improvement of our relations with China, the Soviet Union and other Communist countries. Do you believe that it is possible to have better relations with those countries without reconciliation with north Korea?

A: I think it is very appropriate here to recall President No's declaration on July 7. In the declaration, President No made it clear that, in order to create an atmosphere conducive to durable peace and ultimate reunification of our divided fatherland, we are willing to cooperate with north Korea so that it may improve its relations with countries friendly to us, including the United States and Japan. President No added in the declaration that, in parallel with this, we will continue to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries.

This new forward-looking policy enunciated in the declaration will bring about favorable conditions for south-north reconciliation and cooperation. This in turn will certainly expedite our exchanges with China, the Soviet Union and East European countries, eventually making it possible for us to establish overall relations with them.

Q: While north Korea is calling for cooperation and reconciliation in all fields including the military we still limit the possibility of exchanges and cooperation to nonmilitary fields. How will you handle the conflicting ideas of south and north Korea?

A: As you pointed out, south and north Korea have different approaches to inter-Korean dialogue. We in the south believe that the first step to be taken in the inter-Korean dialogue is to build confidence between south and north Korea through meeting first over humanitarian and noncontentious issues. North Korea says that politico-military issues should be discussed first.

When the nation has been divided for almost half a century, with virtually no contact and deep antagonism between the two, it is unrealistic to think that disarmament and other military issues can be resolved without first building a modest level of confidence in inter-Korean relations. This is the very reason why I proposed three-stage disarmament formula at the 3rd special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in June this year.

On the other hand, we are not excluding the military aspects in inter-Korean dialogue. When I proposed south-north Korean foreign ministers talks in August 1987 I made it clear that the talks could take up any subject of interest to either party, including politico-military issues. The proposal was made out of the sincere desire to resume the inter-Korean dialogue realistically with equal flexibility and sincerity so that the dialogue could be resumed at the earliest date.

Q: Our northern policies seem to have derived more from political motives than from economic needs, while China and the Soviet Union approach south Korea more for economic than political reasons. At the same time, some specialists evaluate that our economic exchanges and trade with the Communist countries will not be so much profitable as many expect. When do you think such economic relations will develop to political relations?

A: I would like to, first of all, explain the aims of our northern policy.

One of its aims is to actively seek improved relations with China, the Soviet Union and East European countries in order to bring about lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and to create favorable conditions for eventual national unification. At the same time, the policy seeks to establish better relations with north Korea, concrete formulas of which are elaborated in President No's July 7 declaration.

Now, let me explain the background against which new developments in our relations with China the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have been made. In my view, the Korean economic dynamism and hosting of '88 Seoul Olympic Games on the one hand and the socialist countries new pragmatism and more outward-looking reform policies on the other seem to have reinforced each other to promote these new developments.

As we are well aware, the leadership of these countries now puts more emphasis on economic development rather than on ideology. The Republic of Korea is now regarded as one of the partners with which these socialist countries can cooperate in the economic development efforts to their mutual benefit. I think that after the Seoul Olympic Games, these countries will be able to form a more realistic view on our country and, with the gradual progress in inter-Korean relations, our exchanges with these countries will be expanded to other fields.

As to the opinion that our exchanges and trade with the socialist countries will not be so much profitable. I am of a different opinion. In this age of interdependence and cooperation among nations, we can find much room for mutual benefit, if we try. This is also true of our economic exchanges with these countries.

Q: There have been worries that Japan may make use of the July 7 declaration as a chance to pursue the two-Korea policy and play double with south and north Korea. What is your opinion?

A: The true objective of the July 7 declaration is to create an atmosphere conducive to durable peace on the Korean peninsula, which is a prerequisite for peaceful unification.

To be more specific, the declaration was made not only to achieve national integration through reconciliation and cooperation between south and north Korea, but also to bring about balanced development in international relations surrounding the Korean peninsula and to consolidate peace on it. The Japanese government fully understands our position and gave its support to the declaration through a statement made on July 7 by its chief cabinet secretary.

For now, the Japanese government has not indicated any change in its policy toward north Korea. We have been told that Japan would promote its relations with north Korea taking into consideration the progress of our relations with China and the Soviet Union.

Under these circumstances, I do not think that there will soon be active government-level exchanges between Japan and north Korea, because north Korea is still showing a negative response to the July 7 declaration and the Japanese government shares our view that the one-sided improvement of its relations with north Korea is not desirable for peace and security in this part of the world. Our understanding is that the Japanese government, committed to maintaining peace and security on the Korean peninsula, supports the peaceful reunification of Korea and shall make close consultation with us on its policy toward north Korea.

Q: Does the government have any plans to seek admission to the United Nations after the Olympic Games?

A: The government has applied several times for admission to the United Nations since 1948. Such efforts have not been fruitful so far mainly because of the legacy of the Cold War which still lingers over the Korean peninsula.

At present, the Republic of Korea has diplomatic relations with 128 countries and is the twelfth largest trading country in the world with more than \$80 billion worth of trade and a population of 42 million. The Republic of Korea has also taken an active part in United Nations activities since it became an observer to the United Nations in 1948.

Thus, the absence of Korea from the list of United Nations membership is an anomaly, and it runs counter to the United Nations principle of universality.

It is our firm conviction that the admission of both Koreas to the United Nations will contribute to reducing tension and strengthening peace on the Korean peninsula and eventually to achieving the peaceful unification of the country.

North Korea opposes the entry of both Koreas into the United Nations, arguing that it will lead to the perpetuation of division of the Korean peninsula. However, this allegation is not logically sustainable and inconsistent with historical facts. The case of Egypt and Syria is

self-explanatory on this point. These two countries were original United Nations members from 1945. Following a plebiscite in 1958, the United Arab Republic was established by the union of Egypt and Syria, and the UAR sat in the United Nations as a single member. In 1961, Syria recovered its status as an independent state, and simultaneously resumed its United Nations membership. One more historical example is that of West and East Germany. West and East Germany enjoy separate United Nations membership without giving up efforts to achieve unification.

The government will continue its efforts to enter the United Nations as a full member. We will consider the submission of application for United Nations membership when we are convinced that our northern policy has created a favorable atmosphere.

Q: What are your strategies to cope with increasing pressures from the advanced countries to open our economy?

A: Our economic achievement, which has often been quoted as a model case of the developing countries, is largely attributable to free trade and market economy systems. We are, therefore, firmly committed to liberalizing our market and further advancing the market economy, which we believe will contribute not only to the continued growth of our own economy, but also to the development of a healthy world economy. The government will continue to pursue the trade liberalization policy, because we are convinced that Korea's economic growth and prosperity by and large depend on international trade.

Korea has become one of the major trading countries in the world. Such improved status within the international community requires new concepts and approaches in our thinking. Our growing economic strength elicits increasing pressure from the world community to shoulder more responsibility commensurate with our economic strength. Naturally, as the economic relations with our trading partners deepen, more problems and even frictions are bound to occur. If I make an analogy, such frictions should be viewed from the perspective of physiology rather than of pathology.

I believe that the pending trade issues with our trade partners should be resolved through continued dialogue, the spirit of give-and-take, and by aiming at long-term mutual benefits rather than short-sighted trade gains. A more flexible approach should be taken lest the trade frictions should escalate to undermine friendly relations with our trading partners.

On the other hand, closer multilateral cooperation among trading nations is essential to improving world trading environment and maintaining a liberal trading system. We believe that multilateral forums such as GATT could provide a dispute settlement mechanism for many bilateral trade issues. Therefore, we are now

actively participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiation which is currently underway. Our role in the world trading system has increased in the past decade, and will continue to grow in the coming years.

Q: What is your ministry doing for the successful organization of the Seoul Olympics?

A: The Seoul Olympic Games will be the largest sports festival in Olympic history, with the participation of 161 IOC [International Olympic Committee] member countries. Especially, I trust that the participation of the countries with which we have no diplomatic relations, including the Soviet Union, China, and other East European countries, will make the Seoul Olympic Games a true festival of world peace and harmony, in which people from both the East and the West, will meet together for the first time since the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been making every effort to strengthen mutual cooperation with every participating country, and to encourage the participation of north Korea and five other countries which have not yet accepted the IOC's invitation to take part in the Games.

With regard to the security arrangements for the Seoul Olympic Games, we are well prepared to block any attempt to disrupt the Games, and are intensifying international cooperation to make the Games the most secure and successful one. Let me give you some examples. We have established a liaison body between Korea and Japan for the prevention of terrorist attacks and held two rounds of consultations already.

Korea-U.S. consultative meeting on terrorism was held in September 1987. Also, the EC countries promised to provide support for our efforts to ensure the security of the Seoul Olympic Games. More recently, the Asia-Pacific Regional Aviation Security Conference was held in Seoul from June 28 to 29, with the participation of seven Asian countries and the United States.

Our ministry is also consulting with authorities concerned to afford every possible convenience to athletes, officials and tourists from the countries with which Korea has no diplomatic relations. We have already simplified entry procedures for those people, and are prepared to respond favorably to the request from those countries for allowing their Olympic attaches to exercise consular functions.

Finally, our ministry set up an Olympic task force within the ministry on June 9, 100 days before the Games. The Olympic task force is now in full operation to provide more effective assistance in diplomatic fields, and to cooperate with diplomatic missions in Korea.

Further on Official's Criticism of Leftists
SK1408010888 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] The growing strength of radical forces may necessitate a constitutional revision after the Olympics to ensure political stability, Minister of Government Administration Kim Yong-kap told reporters yesterday.

The current political arrangement is making it difficult to effectively cope with the growing leftist forces, Kim said.

He said that after the Games the people will have to decide whether to take firm steps against the leftists.

"The present political situation, marked by opposition strength, is fueling leftist ideologies and making it extremely difficult to safeguard the liberal democracy.

"After the Olympics, the government should ask the people to make a choice—whether to follow the leftist students attempting to overthrow the liberal democratic system," Kim said.

He said it is necessary to review the current Constitution, which has deprived the President of the power to dissolve the National Assembly.

His statement suggests that the ruling camp may seek to rewrite the nation's basic law after the Olympic Games.

Kim accused opposition parties of failing to take a firm position against radical students.

"The student radicals are exploiting the unification question, and attempting to disrupt the Olympics and overthrow the nation's democratic system.

"They are calling for democratization and unification, but in reality echoing the causes advocated by (north Korean leader) Kim Il-song," Kim said.

He said the students do not care if the nation is unified in the same manner as Vietnam.

"Some opposition politicians are inciting the student radicals, who are making the people extremely concerned about the nation's future," he said.

He accused opposition politicians of being interested only in grasping power.

"Should the current trend continue, the government will have to make a firm decision after the Olympics," Kim said.

He added that in last week's cabinet session, many cabinet members agreed with him in calling for firm steps against student radicals.

Opposition Condemns Remarks

SK1408011388 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 14 Aug 88 p 1, 4

[Text] The three opposition parties yesterday condemned a cabinet minister for his remarks on advocating a constitutional revision to restore the presidential power to dissolve the National Assembly.

In separate statements, the opposition parties, noting the New Constitution is only months old, said the minister made the suggestion in a bid to turn the political situation favorable to the government and its party.

Yi Sang-su, spokesman for the Party for Peace and Democracy said, "It is deplorable that Minister of Government Administration Kim Yong-kap irresponsibly hinted the government may consider a constitutional amendment to restore the presidential power to dissolve the parliament."

"If the government is truly committed to the success of the Seoul Olympic Games, it is recommended to refrain from making such remarks that destabilize the political situation," said Yi.

"Important issues on state affairs must be announced in a normal manner and not leaked just to see the response," Yi said.

So Chong-won, spokesman for the Reunification Democratic Party, also said that Kim's remarks, "designed to mislead the political situation, must be subject to popular condemnation."

"Kim said the opposition incites students to lead to leftist orientation, and it demonstrates that the government has no intention to reflect on its past wrongdoings," So said.

Kim Mun-won, spokesman for the New Democratic Republican Party, said, "We'd like to ask whether the government has any evidence that the opposition incites the students."

The government is urged to take proper measures to call Kim to account for his remarks, the spokesman said.

Kim To Be Questioned on Remarks

SK1608010388 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
16 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] The opposition yesterday decided to convene an Assembly committee at the earliest possible date to question Government Administration Minister Kim Yong-kap with regard to his controversial remarks Saturday.

The three opposition parties said that they took special note of Kim's hint of possible constitutional change to enable the president to disband the National Assembly, adding that they will seriously consider a resolution to dismiss Minister Kim depending on the result of his testimony.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, held a meeting of key post holders at his home yesterday and decided to demand the opening of the Assembly Administration Committee.

PPD spokesman Yi Sang-su said the PPD could not but regard a series of "provocative remarks" by the ruling camp as a plot to "return the post-Olympics political situation to the state in which the Fifth Republic found itself.

Controversy Surrounds Proposal

SK1608081088 Seoul YONHAP in English
0706 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—With the Seoul Olympics barely a month away, South Korea's domestic political situation is again caught up in a whirlwind of rivalry between the ruling and opposition camps over a cabinet minister's suggestion of a major political change immediately after the international sports festival.

The controversy is now centered on the real intention behind government Administration Minister Kim Yong-kap's abrupt denunciation Saturday of a rise in leftism in the nation's political arena and his suggestion of a constitutional change after the Olympics.

His remarks, made in a meeting with a group of local political reporters, immediately touched off speculation that hardline conservatives may be attempting to counter the nation's ongoing political reforms after the Olympics. The opposition parties, which have a long history of being suppressed by the overpowering authoritarian regimes in the nation's modern history, responded with outrage and called for Kim's dismissal from the cabinet.

His remarks, most of all, surprised many since he holds a non-political portfolio and was not in a position to talk about such a sensitive topic which carries weighty political importance. Some members of the ruling camp insisted that Kim was expressing his private views, which have no relevance to those of the ruling party, but the explanation seemed less persuasive in calming the anger of the opposition parties.

The opposition parties suspect that Kim's remarks may reveal the political views of the hawks inside the ruling camp, comprising the administration and some key military segments as well as the Democratic Justice Party (DJP). They seem to be particularly attentive to his remarks in view of his past role as a key member of the ruling elite group.

Kim, a graduate of the Korea Military Academy's 17th class, retired from active duty as an Army major immediately following the Dec. 12, 1979, military incident to become the planning-coordination director of the Agency for National Security Planning. Kim later served as the senior civil affairs secretary to former President Chon Tu-hwan. Some of Kim's Military Academy classmates are currently among the Army's leading group and allegedly harbor ultra-conservative political views.

DJP President Yun Kil-chung, while briefing journalists about his party's officeholders meeting Tuesday, which discussed the political turmoil provoked by Kim's remarks, rebuffed the opposition move to sack Kim from his cabinet post, saying that the opposition parties were going too far in politicizing Kim's private thoughts and demanding his dismissal.

Kim himself met with a group of journalists Tuesday to clarify his position on the controversy but failed to concede to the opposition demand that he take responsibility for his irresponsible and abominable remarks. Instead, he toned up his voice and said, there is no change in my belief that we should ask the people to express their ideas concerning the safeguarding of free democracy from the threat of leftism.

He said earlier that the government should ask the people after the Olympics to make a choice about whether to follow the leftism advocated by radical student activists who he said were attempting to overthrow the liberal democratic system. He insisted, however, that his remarks concerning constitutional revision were misrepresented.

He allegedly called for a revision of the Constitution questioning its failure to empower the chief executive to dissolve the National Assembly. He further accused some opposition politicians last Saturday of sympathizing with the radical students and deplored the inability of the incumbent government to curb what he said was rising leftism.

Meanwhile, the leading opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) Tuesday decided to propose a National Assembly Administration Committee meeting to probe into Minister Kim's real intention. A PPD party affairs guidance meeting, presided over by party leader Kim Tae-chung, however, reserved for the time being its decision to press the government to sack Kim outright out of a fear that his dismissal now could result in the making of a political martyr, a party spokesman said.

The PPD seems to be worrying about the possibility that Kim's immediate dismissal would probably spark a backlash from the so-called ultra-rightists, whose voices in the ruling camp have allegedly been somewhat restrained in the course of the political reforms during the past year.

Kim Yong-sam, leader of the no. 2 opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), however, called for Kim's outright punishment, arguing that Kim's remarks concerning a revival of the presidential power to dissolve the National Assembly should be denounced as an unacceptable offspring of a revolutionary conception. Should President No Tae-u really intend to democratize the country, he should fire Minister Kim, he stressed.

The DJP has so far decided not to accept the PPD's proposal for a meeting of the National Assembly Administration Committee, apparently under the tactical logic that an open debate by the committee on Kim's remarks now would do nothing but harm the tacit agreement between the ruling and opposition camps to observe a political truce until after the Seoul Olympics.

Minister Kim, however, still expresses his strong determination to defy, even if it costs him his cabinet post, all actions that the opposition parties may take in retaliation against his remarks. We should safeguard at all costs our community from leftism, he emphasized in a meeting with journalists Tuesday. The people, he added, are worried about the situation in which leftist elements are one-sidedly supported while the rightists criticizing them are subject to biased condemnation.

Some political commentators liken Kim to the famed Japanese rightist writer Mishima Yukio, who committed suicide in the late 1960s to highlight his call for the restoration of militarism in Japan. Whether Kim's remarks were simply representing his private thoughts is not clear now, but it should be noteworthy that they came at about the time that some Seoul citizens began to express bluntly their repugnance of student radicalism by throwing stones at demonstrating students, whom they once supported a year ago.

Soviet 'Consular Body' To Come to Seoul
SK1608115888 Seoul YONHAP in English
1150 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has exchanged official papers with the Soviet Union which will enable a Soviet consular body to come to Seoul soon to exercise consular affairs before and during the Seoul Olympic games, the foreign ministry announced on Tuesday.

A spokesman at the ministry said the six-member consular body scheduled to arrive here during the week will stay in Korea until Oct. 10 to conduct consular affairs, apart from the Soviet Olympic attache, which the Korean Government had previously allowed to exercise consular status.

Our government recently received diplomatic papers from the Soviet Government proposing that the Soviet Union dispatch its consular body to Seoul and decided to accept the proposal to offer full conveniences to the Soviet Olympic delegation and visitors, the spokesman said.

He said a note verbal to that effect was sent to the Soviet Union.

On August 3, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said that the South Korean Government has exchanged official papers with the Soviet Union which will enable the Soviet Olympic attache to exercise consular status before and during the Seoul Olympic games.

At the time, the foreign minister said the exchange of official papers—the first of its kind since the ancient Korean period between 1,880 and 1,905—is expected to lay the groundwork for improved relations between Seoul and Moscow in the future.

The government plans to give the Soviet consular body a status to exercise consular function and offer all possible conveniences under the Vienna convention on consular relations which took effect in 1963, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the government received the same proposal from the Czechoslovak Government and accepted the proposal. Czechoslovakia, therefore, dispatched a vice consul on Aug. 12 and the consul plans to stay here until Oct. 5, the spokesman added.

Daewoo, USSR Negotiate on Joint Spinning Mill
SK1308004988 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
13 Aug 88 p 6

[Text] The Daewoo group is negotiating with the Soviet Union for the establishment of a joint venture spinning mill in Siberia or Vladivostok, the Japanese press reported.

Quoting Korean government authorities, the report said that the Soviet Union had proposed to the Korean government and business circles early this year the establishment of a joint venture spinning mill as part of Siberian development projects.

PRC Seeks Permission for Chartered Flight
SK1408015188 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
14 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] China will make nine round-trip chartered flights to and from Beijing, Shanghai, and Seoul to transport athletes and supporting staff during the Seoul Olympic Games period, the Transportation Ministry said yesterday.

China is seeking permission from the Korean government for the chartered flights by Air China planes. Air China is the successor of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) in charge of international air service.

With the Chinese application, the number of countries which applied for permission for chartered flights for the Seoul Olympics totalled 23, the ministry said.

Four East bloc countries had also applied for permission for the special flights during the Olympiad. They are the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.

The Soviet Union plans 14 round-trip chartered flights between Moscow and Seoul during the Olympic games period.

The number of special chartered flights by the 23 countries will total 288 from Sept. 1 to Oct. 10, according to the ministry.

During the period, Korean Air also plans 122 chartered flights to transport Olympic torches from Greece and athletes from African countries.

The ministry said that Kimpo International Airport can accommodate the 410 chartered flights because it has expanded supporting facilities recently.

The ministry will notify the 23 countries of the Korean government's permission for the special flights next week.

High-Ranking Chinese Group Pays Official Visit
SK1608020588 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
16 Aug 88 p 6

[Text] As the government and business circles are enhancing efforts to expand economic and trade relations with China these days, a five-member high-ranking Chinese delegation is now visiting here, it was learned yesterday.

Invited by the Ssangyong group last Thursday, they consist of the president and four executive members of the Chinese International Trade Investment Corporation (CITIC).

They are reported to be the highest-ranking Chinese officials ever to visit Korea which maintains no diplomatic relations with China and other Communist countries as well.

Scheduled to stay here for about two weeks, it is reported that they will discuss with the Korean government and business circles the promotion of economic and trade relations, such as the establishment of joint ventures in China and the introduction of Korean capital.

CITIC, headquartered in Beijing, now runs representative offices in Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, Frankfurt, and Paris.

'Task Force' To Cope With U.S. Trade Bill

SK1408013488 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
14 Aug 88 p 6

[Text] The government has decided to set up a special task force team along with such private economic organizations as the Federation of Korean Industries and the Korea Foreign Trade Association to wisely cope with the imminent legislation of the U.S. omnibus trade bill.

With the formation of the special task force team, the government and private economic circles will sort out a wide range of steps to stave off the escalation of trade friction with the United States due to the impending legislation of the omnibus trade bill characterized by the inclusion of strong protectionist elements.

Among the steps to be mapped out are the voluntary control by business concerns on exports to the United States and their self-restraints on the infringement of U.S. intellectual property rights.

The government will also encourage business concerns to invest in the United States and expand technological cooperation with U.S. enterprises.

In a report to the National Assembly yesterday, the Trade-Industry Ministry said that the government would expand imports to the United States rather than to decrease exports to realize balanced trade between Korea and the United States.

The ministry maintained that the government would endeavor to head off the possible rising petitions by the United States against the nation in accordance with the omnibus trade bill with the pursuit of balanced trade between the two countries.

The omnibus trade bill was recently passed by the U.S. Senate and has been sent to President Ronald Reagan for signing into law.

As Reagan is sure to sign the bill, the nation's exports to the United States are feared to be seriously restricted.

The bill empowers the U.S. Trade Representative to mobilize Section 301 of the Trade Act against any country which is enjoying trade surpluses with the United States.

Section 301, worst of all, stipulates that the U.S. Trade Representative can curb the import of specific items or all products from any country which persists in unfair trade practices with the United States.

Against this backdrop, the ministry told the National Assembly that the government would reform import procedures and other related regulations to facilitate imports from the United States.

The ministry also said that wider access to local markets would be ensured to the United States through negotiations.

However, the ministry stressed that if the U.S. omnibus trade bill is applied to in excess of the spirit of free global trade, it would lodge petitions against the United States with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and take other strong measures.

Burma

Students Call for 18 August Demonstration

BK1608105088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT
16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Aug 16 (AFP)—Burmese students have called for a demonstration Thursday [18 August], a day ahead of the naming of a new president, according to leaflets distributed in Rangoon Tuesday.

The leaflets called for the disbanding of the one-party rule of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) set up by Ne Win after a 1962 coup.

"Let us demonstrate at 8 o'clock at night on the 18th of August for the removal of the one-party system," said the leaflets addressed to "the people and the students" and signed the "student union."

Parliament is to meet Friday to choose a successor to Sein Lwin, who resigned last Friday as both president and ruling party chairman after only 17 days in power. He replaced General Ne Win who retired after 26 years as leader.

The BSPP Central Committee will also meet Friday but observers here said it was not certain a new party chairman would be named. [passage omitted]

"We should not be traitors to the people who gave up their lives in the fight for democracy," the leaflets said.

Tension Continues To Relax in Rangoon

People Assist Security Personnel

BK1508143588 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] People are now working hand in hand with the security forces, and with might and main in urban development tasks and in efforts to restore security and law and order. In North Okkalapa yesterday, responsible officials from the Rangoon Division Regional Party Committee, the Rangoon Division People's Council, the Rangoon City Development Committee, and the People's Police Force, together with the commander of No 1 Military Administration Region, discussed security matters with people's representatives from 17 wards.

Following the talks, and at 2030, people in Hta-wun-be Ward of North Okkalapa captured four persons who took part in the riots and disturbances and handed them over to the security forces.

Similarly, at 0500 today, four suspicious persons who entered Barr Street to steal were captured by the people and handed over to security personnel, who sent them to the Kyauktada Police Station.

Officials Urge Cooperation

BK1508143088 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Urban security and law and order matters were discussed at a meeting held at the Rangoon City Hall today. It was attended by elders and people from the townships in downtown Rangoon—Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Seikkan, Kyauktada, Botataung, Pazundaung, and Mingala Taungnyunt—and responsible officials of No 4 Military Administration Region.

At the meeting, the commander and tactical operations commander of No 4 Military Administration Region requested the elders to work together in the permanent restoration of peace and to offer their best cooperation in the efforts to secure peace and law and order in the city.

The meeting ended after the elders representing the townships discussed matters regarding the situation in their wards and townships and about cooperating in socioeconomic and religious matters.

Travelers Report on Situation

BK1508160888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Aug 15 (AFP)—Troops were guarding key sites in Rangoon Monday [15 August] as students put up posters stating their demands after forcing Burmese strongman Sein Lwin to resign, travellers arriving here and Rangoon-based diplomats said.

Soldiers enforcing martial law in the Burmese capital were absent Sunday from the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the main sites for anti-government protests, but were back on guard Monday behind barbed wire barricades, they said.

At Sule Pagoda, a second flashpoint, troops drew back to allow traffic to pass through the four main access roads, but were present in force, they added. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, students seemed to be engaged in a "poster" debate Monday, with crowds quickly gathering around handwritten papers and cardboard stuck up at strategic sites to announce anti-government demands. [passage omitted]

Australian tourist Eric Cope said he had seen a poster in English which called for: A referendum on a multi-party system in three to six months. Sein Lwin and his henchmen to be brought to trial. The police and Army responsible for the shootings to be brought to trial. Total and truthful accounting of the dead and wounded.

It also demanded compensation to the families of victims of the violence. Release of all political prisoners and creation of a student union.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Notes Sihanouk Move, Intentions

BK1608071588 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0435 GMT
16 August 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 16 August (SPK)—“The framework of a political solution to the Cambodian problem brought out at the recent informal meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, broke not only the deadlock which has dragged on for the past nearly 10 years but appeared to have partly solved the problem toward putting an end to the suffering of the Cambodian people as soon as possible”.

Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the PRK, affirmed this during his recent visit to Kompong Cham Province.

At the meeting with leading cadres of the province, he portrayed as just and courageous Prince Norodom Sihanouk's decision to step down from his post as the chairman of the tripartite CGDK and his intention to cooperate with the PRK in order to promote the quest for a political solution to a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia.

We are firmly convinced that such cooperation will effectively contribute to preventing the return to power of the Pol Potists after the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese army volunteers in 1990, declared Hun Sen who further said:

The third round of meeting between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and myself scheduled for next November in Paris, has a significant importance in the search for an agreement between the two forces.

Chairman Hun Sen highly appreciated Prince Sihanouk's initiative requesting the United Nations to leave the Cambodian seat empty while waiting for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

While awaiting a political solution to the Cambodian problem and also to stimulate this process, he added, any resolution on the Cambodian problem adopted by this international organization during the past 9 years should be rectified in line with the framework defined at the informal meeting in Jakarta.

SRV Support on Stand Against Thai Acts Cited

BK1508065188 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0432 GMT
15 August 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 15 Aug (SPK)—On 12 August, the SRV Foreign Ministry's spokesman issued a statement upholding his Cambodian counterpart's 9 August declaration concerning violations of the PRK sovereignty by Thailand.

These acts affect not only the Cambodian people's interests but those of the Thai people as well. These are therefore against their aspirations of peaceful coexistence and good neighborhood, viewed the SRV Foreign Ministry's spokesman who then stressed that:

The SRV fully supports the just position of the PRK and demands that Thailand immediately halt its acts of violations of Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and positively respond to the goodwilled propositions of the latter aiming at establishing the Cambodian-Thai border as a border of peace and friendship, thus contributing to resolving the Cambodian problem and peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

PRACHEACHON on Thai 'Hostile Policy'

BK1508130188 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1139 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Aug 15—“Thailand's illegal occupation of Hills 310, 318 and 391 inside Kampuchean territory has testified to the fact the Thai ruling circles have not yet abandoned their hostile policy toward Kampuchea,” says the Kampuchean paper PRA-CHACHON in its latest commentary.

The Kampuchean bi-weekly, organ of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, says that Thailand's recent armed provocations against the People's Republic of Kampuchea have further aggravated the strained situation along the Thailand-Kampuchea border and encouraged the genocidal Polpotists to step up their activities of sabotage against the Kampuchean people.

The Governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have advanced many good will proposals, including peace plans set forth at the recent Jakarta Informal Meeting, for an equitable political solution to the Kampuchean conflict and issues relating to peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia. These proposals have enjoyed ever broader support from the world public, however, the paper notes, far from positively responding to these peace initiatives the Thai authorities have sought to create obstacles to the search for peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean problem and undermine the process of dialogue now prevailing in the region.

PRACHEACHON says: “The Kampuchean people energetically condemn the Thai ruling circles for their violations of Kampuchea's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We demand that Bangkok put an immediate end to all its wrongdoings and withdraw its troops from Kampuchea's territory.”

“Thailand must bear full responsibility for all consequences of their hostile moves,” the paper says in conclusion.

Editorial Hails AAPSO Conference 'Success'

*BK1508033088 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Aug 88*

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "An Important Contribution to the Process of National Reconciliation in Cambodia, Dialogue, and Cooperation in Southeast Asia"]

[Text] The international conference on national reconciliation in Cambodia, dialogue, and cooperation in Southeast Asia held in Phnom Penh, capital of the PRK, under the cooperation between the AAPSO and the Kampuchean AAPSO Committee ended successfully.

This is an important political event following the Jakarta informal meeting [words indistinct].

This international conference is another significant contribution to the phase of struggle to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation and a possible contribution to seeking a correct political solution for the international aspects of the Cambodian problem.

Continuing to uphold the banner of solidarity among nations in Asia and Africa and resolutely struggling for national independence and to safeguard the interests of the oppressed nations and world peace, the AAPSO delegations from 18 countries and 6 international mass organizations conveyed most sincere solidarity and full support to the Cambodian people.

In their addresses, the wise and most responsible representatives of these progressive international organizations all paid keen attention to the current situation in Cambodia and in the region. The participants in this conference firmly condemned the imperialists and other reactionary forces for their hostile policy against the rebirth of the Cambodian people and the three Indochinese countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, and for their maneuvers to undermine, incite, and sow discord between the two groups of Indochinese and ASEAN countries, thus causing confrontation and a tense situation in this region and seriously affecting the genuine and correct interests of the people in the region.

At the same time, they fully supported the peace proposal, constructive initiatives, and goodwill efforts of the PRK and the three Indochinese countries, which are significantly contributing to breaking through a nearly-10-year deadlock in the Cambodian problem and the problem of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, in order to advance toward reaching a just and reasonable political solution.

The participants strongly condemned the inhumane genocidal crimes which are unprecedented in the history of mankind committed by the Pol Pot clique and firmly demanded the elimination of Pol Pot and prevention of the horrible danger of the return in Cambodia of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Following the liberation on 7 January 1979, the Cambodian people who survived the massacre of the genocidal regime profoundly desired to live in peace to restore and rebuild their beloved motherland. But, that independence and peace we seized are seriously threatened by the Pol Pot clique with the support of the hegemonist-expansionists in collusion with the imperialists and other reactionary forces.

Prompted by the firm and masterly growth of the Cambodian revolution, out of goodwill and lofty sense of responsibility for the fate of the motherland and the people, and with an aim to quickly bring about peace and stability and to immediately put an end to the war of bloodshed which has destroyed countless lives and property of our people, the PRK has put forth constructive initiatives and concrete measures in its successive peace proposals—particularly the statement on the six-point national reconciliation policy and the statement and seven-point stand on a political solution to the Cambodian problem—aimed at resolving the Cambodian problem and problem of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Thanks to this the PRK's international prestige has soared even higher than ever before and the international public opinion has become well aware of the important role of the PRK.

This correct national reconciliation policy has brought about two historic meetings between Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Comrade Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk and the recent informal meeting in Jakarta which constitute important steps blazing the trail toward seeking a political solution to the Cambodian problem and problem of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. What is more important is that during the informal meeting in Jakarta, for the first time, the participants unanimously agreed on two key issues, that is the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the elimination of Pol Pot—by putting an end to all supply of sanctuaries and training centers for the Pol Pot clique to conduct activities against the Cambodian people and all military and financial aid to this clique—as well as the cessation of all foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs.

Our people warmly welcome the success of this international conference on national reconciliation in Cambodia, dialogue, and cooperation in Southeast Asia, particularly the final communique of the conference and its message to the PRK Government and people which highly valued the immense victories scored by the Cambodian people in the cause of the rebirth of the fatherland and people and their national revival, reiterated the unanimous and full support for the PRK's clear-sighted, just, and good-willed seven-point stand on a political solution to the Cambodian problem, and resolutely opposed the revival of the genocidal regime in Cambodia.

At the same time, the conference sent messages to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN general secretary; and His Excellency Robert Mugabe, chairman of

the Nonaligned Movement, calling on the two excellencies to use their role in leaving the Cambodian seat at the United Nations vacant as proposed by the Nonaligned Movement and in turning these organizations into a new force in support for the struggle to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

Our people deeply thank the delegations of the AAPSO and the international mass organizations and friends near and far who had made a trip across countries and continents to attend this international conference and voice solidarity and support for our people's just struggle.

Our people highly appreciate this and regard it as an important contribution to the process of national reconciliation in Cambodia and the struggle toward reaching a reasonable and just political solution to the Cambodian problem and problem of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The international conference on national reconciliation in Cambodia, dialogue, and cooperation in Southeast Asia is one of the great truths, clearly proving that the PRK is not isolated, that the large numbers of people on earth are on our side, and that our people's struggle will certainly win.

Realizing the value of peace and fervently desiring to live in peace, the Cambodian people voice their full support, as ever before, for the struggle of people in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America [words indistinct] as well as imperialism, old and new colonialism, apartheid, and Zionism, together with the movement for peace, democracy, and social progress of the large numbers of mankind in the five continents.

Our people pledge to make every effort, together with the fraternal Vietnamese and Lao peoples, and carry on the struggle to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation in contribution to world peace.

Lao Party Propaganda Delegation Arrives
BK1208132388 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1119 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 12—A delegation of the Commission for Propaganda and Training of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee led by Somlat Chanthamat, president of the commission, arrived here this morning for an official friendship visit to Kampuchea.

It was warmly welcomed at Pochentong Airport by Khoy Khunhuor, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of its Commission for Propaganda and Education; and other Kampuchean officials.

Lao Ambassador to Kampuchea Pheli Khounlaleuk was present.

Military Actions for Week Ending 6 August

BK1408083788 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0418 GMT
14 Aug 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 13 Aug (SPK)—During the week ending on 6 August Thai gunners poured a daily artillery barrage of hundreds of rounds onto Cambodia's border regions.

Most serious was that on 2 August they fired 700 rounds on the sector southwest of Bar Tangu and the sector north of Bar Yakha in Pailin, Battambang Province.

In the air, 10 Thai aircraft on 9 occasions overflew the regions of O Bok and Chan Kraham in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, 3 to 10 km inside Cambodian territory, and the island of Poulo Wai.

At sea, the Thai Navy made 14 incursions into the areas near Poulo Wai island.

During the same week, Cambodian border guards in the course of their mopping-up operations put out of action 115 men of the opposition factions sneaking in across the border from Thailand, and seized 51 assorted weapons and some other war materiel.

Broadcasting Protocol Signed With USSR

BK1508112388 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] On 11 August at the office of the Ministry of Economic and Cultural Cooperation With Foreign Countries, Comrade Hem Samin, deputy minister of economic and cultural cooperation with foreign countries, and Comrade Victor P. Emilianov, trade representative of the USSR Embassy in Cambodia, signed a protocol on Soviet assistance to the PRK in the field of radio broadcasting for the period 1988-90.

With the aim of strengthening the material and technical base of the PRK's radio broadcast network, the Soviet Union will provide technical assistance to the PRK for the period 1988-90 to finish the feasibility study on setting up two 75-kw medium-wave radio stations.

In 1988, the Soviet side will provide two 20-kw mobile medium-wave radio stations to be assembled by Soviet technicians who will assist in operating the stations for 2 years. In 1988-90, the Soviet side will hand over to the Cambodian side material and equipment for relay stations to disseminate radio broadcast programs, telegraphic equipment, and material for the intersputnik station. Soviet technicians will set up the intersputnik station, coordinate relay station broadcasts, and assemble telegraphic equipment for the intersputnik station in the years 1989-90.

Equipment for 100-watt and 500-watt radio broadcast relay stations, equipment and spare parts for the television studio in Phnom Penh, and a quantity of printing

and professional equipment and materiel will also be handed over to Cambodia. Soviet technicians will be brought in to assemble, adjust, and put into service all the equipment.

Hun Sen Chairs Regional Party Meeting Closing

*BK1608063588 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Aug 88*

[Text] After proceeding for 3 days, the first congress of the Kompong Cham Province Regional Party Committee concluded on the morning of 14 August under the chairmanship of Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs of the PRK.

The 110 full members who attended the congress jointly discussed the party's political report and a report regarding the inspection of the party committee's leadership during the past more than 2 years and put forth a number of good experiences and requirements to further improve the work for the assurance of effective implementation of all immediate tasks.

The Kompong Cham Province Regional Party Committee's congress also elected 21 provincial party committee members for the next term.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Comrade Hun Sen hailed all-round achievements scored by the Kompong Cham Province Regional Party Committee and people by emphasizing the ideal of seeing the truth and speaking the truth.

Comrade Hun Sen stressed that the party committees at all levels, the Armed Forces, and people must continue to work in accordance with the resolutions of the party Central Committee's fifth and sixth sessions by, firstly, building their forces and the spirit of self-reliance which are the factors deciding the victories of the Cambodian revolution. Moreover, they must strive to consolidate internal unity among the ranks of cadres, party members, local authorities, and units and expand the people's right to mastery in order to advance toward assuming the revolutionary tasks.

Meeting on Inspections, Emulation Drive Ends

*BK1408112188 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 88*

[Text] The State Affairs Inspectorate held a solemn ceremony at the Justice Ministry's conference hall on the afternoon of 12 August to close a meeting that reviewed inspection work and emulation achievements over the past 10 years.

During the 3-day meeting, the participants listened to a report read by Comrade Sin Song, director of the State Affairs Inspectorate, on the activities and outcome of the work to organize the inspection system, the inspection

on the four economic spearheads, the inspection and settlement of citizens' complaints and charges, and the work targets for implementation in the coming years.

The participants also listened to reports from the inspection committees of Kratie, Koh Kong, and Ratanakiri Provinces, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Posts, and the People's Inspection Committee of Chup Rubber Plantation.

The meeting also conferred: the Council of Ministers' laurel banner on the inspection committee of Kratie Province for its outstanding feats and achievements in the past 10 years; the Council of Ministers' citation banners on the inspection committees of Battambang Province and the Ministry of Industry; the State Affairs Inspectorate's laurel banner on the inspection committees of Kompong Thom Province, Stung Treng Province, Kompong Som City, the Ministry of Trade, and the the State Affairs Inspectorate's directorate in charge of settling complaints; and 20 commendation banners and 7 commendation certificates to the departments, units, provinces, and cities which were outstanding in fulfilling the inspection work in 1988.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Comrade Say Chhum, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of agriculture, highly valued the achievements made by the inspection cadres during the past 10 years. The comrade clearly underlined the key theory of the inspection work and exhorted all participants to join with the local leaders and their colleagues in reviewing and examining the inspection work and the work to settle complaints and charges, thus enabling the leadership work to develop in accordance with the requirements of the current revolutionary tasks.

Acceleration of Monsoon Rice Cultivation Urged

*BK1308071088 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 11 Aug 88*

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Head Toward the Localities and Help the Localities to Promote Production and Raise the People's Living Conditions"]

[Text] Up to the present, the work of building and consolidating localities and helping them to bring about real changes and development has become an active movement of the various levels and sectors throughout the country. Institutions at the central level as well as in the provinces, cities, and districts, while mobilizing thousands of cadres and organizing them into task groups to help strengthen weak localities as well as important ones, have paid constant attention to providing both moral and material assistance to localities, thus creating conditions for them to vigorously develop the revolution's position of mastery in the countryside. Together with the task groups which have overcome difficulties and obstacles, firmly grasped the importance of strengthening the villages and communes, enthused

and encouraged the local populace to actively participate in all revolutionary movements in the localities, the central ministries and offices have worked out plans, set up leading committees for consolidating localities, and kept close contacts with these localities with the aim of creating real and concrete results.

In the provinces, cities, and districts, party committees and leading committees for consolidating localities have clearly distributed tasks and responsibilities in specific areas and remained actively close to the localities.

While implementing resolutions of our party Central Committee session concerning building and consolidating our villages and communes, new changes have emerged, especially in building forces and conducting the local defense work, in strengthening control over the promotion of production, and in endeavoring to raise the living conditions of the people, both morally and materially. Because the villages and communes have undergone changes and experienced progress, they have contributed to developing the advantage and strength of the revolution, thus creating favorable conditions for 50,000 Vietnamese volunteer troops and the Vietnamese volunteer army high command to be repatriated during 1988. This event bears a very special significance and meaning. This new important event has showered great successes, beyond any expectation, upon the implementation of the PRK's national reconciliation policy, especially in the form of the Jakarta informal meeting.

In his speech delivered on the 9th anniversary of the National Day of 7 January, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin clearly stressed:

Since the second session of the fifth party Central Committee when all levels and sectors made all-out efforts to reorient their activities toward localities, and used their service to the people and combatants as a yardstick to measure the efficiency of their work, the situation in all domains has improved steadily at a new rate that reflects the results and efficiency of the concrete activities in the building of revolutionary forces, particularly those in the villages and communes.

However, the present situation of the Cambodian revolution has undergone changes and developed a maturity with a powerful impetus and advantage, thus greatly quickening the rate of progress. For this reason, to reach the goal of the party, especially in building and consolidating localities—the major tasks of 1988—it is necessary for us to further accelerate, for the immediate future, the monsoon rice cultivation while the weather is very favorable. It is imperative to pool forces, equipment, and means to help the localities obtain maximum results. This year's monsoon production campaign is of key significance. See to it that the people's living conditions are improved. Our villages, communes, and people will surely not let this moment of favorable weather pass by fruitlessly. All institutions at the central level and in the provinces, cities, and districts which are paying

attention and heading toward the localities should come up with effective measures to help the localities promote production and raise the people's living conditions, provide them with counsel and help in propaganda work, help them organize technical activities, and supply equipment, fertilizer, and funds for production to needy localities.

For the immediate future, especially during the transplanting process, it is imperative to give adequate assistance to the peasants, preventing them from borrowing money from the merchants and thus placing their rice and other farm produce in the hands of the merchants even before harvest time. Measures and investments should be found as of this moment to finance the procurement and construction of schools, hospitals, medicines, buildings in service of production, and other public utilities in communes and villages related to the improvement of the people's living conditions. Raise the sense of responsibility, respect the people's right to mastery, and get rid of all negative phenomena which may harm the people's interests. This is also part of the requirement to help improve the moral and material living conditions of the people, a task which we must strive to correctly implement. All institutions from the central to local levels must emulate in intensifying work toward the localities, helping the localities, vigorously promoting production at this time when the weather is favorable, increasing attention to improving both the moral and material living conditions of the people, and accelerating the efforts to build the regional and militia forces and ensure their fighting quality and capability to create a new, more powerful advantage and strength in response to the rapidly developing situation of the revolution at present. Only by realizing all of this can we and the people as a whole celebrate the 10th anniversary of our National Day of 7 January in all its glory and grandeur.

Spokesman Prince Ranariddh on Jakarta Talks
*BK1208084588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Aug 88*

[Interview with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Norodom Sihanouk's personal representative in Cambodia and Asia and commander in chief of the Sihanoukist National Army, by unidentified station correspondent—recorded; place and date not given]

[Text] [Question] I, correspondent of the Radio Voice of the Khmer, humbly pay my respects to HRH [His Royal Highness] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of HRH Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and commander in chief of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS]. First of all, permit me to pose the following question to your highness: Your highness, the royal representative just led a FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] delegation to the informal meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, in late July; what progress did the

meetings, attended by the four Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos, and the ASEAN countries, make in the advance toward finding a solution to the Cambodian problem?

[Answer] First of all, I would like to thank the Voice of the Khmer with you as the correspondent for interviewing me today on the informal meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, which in English was called JIM or the Jakarta informal meeting. According to my own analysis, there are two aspects to this JIM. The first involves some qualities, for this was the first time that all parties—not only the four Cambodian parties, but also countries involved in the Cambodian problem, and especially Vietnam—sat down together around the same table in order to discuss the so-called Cambodian problem. Moreover, the four Cambodian parties, though not yet fully agreeable to each other, consented to meet and look directly—some not quite so directly however—into each other's eyes. One good thing was that they agreed to talk to and exchange some views with one another on the possible ways to resolve the Cambodian problem. On the other hand, this was the first time that the countries and states in Southeast Asia showed the world public that this region could meet and agree to find means to settle problems in Southeast Asia.

Talking about the four Cambodian factions, each of them expressed views on the solution to the Cambodian problem. In fact, what counts most is that all of the factions agreed on major principles, such as the principle that the Cambodian problem must be settled peacefully through political means and that Cambodia must be a 100 percent independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia enjoying full territorial integrity. This is a principle that all factions agreed upon. All factions also agreed that all Cambodians must form a coalition government, a national reconciliation government.

However, in addition to these major principles and political stances that all factions, let me repeat again, agreed with, the means toward finding a solution, toward realizing all these principles met with a serious difference of opinions. In reality, there was the greatest difference between the party of Democratic Kampuchea or the Khmer Rouge and the party of Phnom Penh. The greatest difference was between these two factions. In principle, they agreed with each other, but politically and in terms of the means to implement this principle, they differed with each other.

This is about the good aspect with qualities, despite some problem as I just told you. There is another aspect that can be considered as defective. First, the SRV in going there did not bring along any constructive proposal to find a solution to the Cambodian problem. Its aspiration remained the same, that is to swallow Cambodia while blaming ASEAN or this or that country. The truth is the SRV is solely responsible for the Cambodian problem. Moreover, in the past Vietnam repeatedly said

that with or without a political solution to the Cambodian problem, in 1990—and Hun Sen himself said that in late 1989 or in the 1st quarter of 1990 at the latest—Vietnam would withdraw its troops. However, when in Jakarta, Vietnam did say that it would surely withdraw troops, but Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime added another condition by insisting that countries assisting the resistance movement must also stop aiding the resistance.

In my opinion, this cannot be considered progress in the search for a Cambodian solution. This latest condition would enable Vietnam not to withdraw its troops from Cambodia in the future.

In summary, the party of Democratic Kampuchea continued to show an unflexible attitude and Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime continued to adhere to their so-called stance for the solution to the Cambodian problem, refusing to be flexible or to do anything that would help advance on a constructive road toward finding a solution to the Cambodian problem.

In conclusion, both communist factions refused to change their attitude. I, Norodom Ranariddh, after attending the meeting in Indonesia, hold that there is only one solution to the Cambodian problem, that is the one that HRH Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—our samdech euv—put forth in a five-point proposal in Jakarta. This is my personal analysis on the Jakarta meeting.

[Question] I would like to ask your highness to explain the five-point proposal made by HRH Samdech Norodom Sihanouk at the time that the four Cambodian factions visited him in Indonesia.

[Answer] As I told you just now, because HRH Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, known to all Cambodians as samdech euv, realized that our Cambodian factions—especially the communist factions—could not agree with each other, during an audience he granted to the representatives of all Cambodian factions, including His Excellency Khieu Samphan representing the party of DK, His Excellency Son Sann representing the KPNLF, His Excellency Hun Sen representing the Phnom Penh regime, and myself, not only did he set forth the five-point proposal, but he also asked all of us how could it be that at a time when we have lost our national pride and honor because we relentlessly and endlessly quarrel with one another, because seemingly we do not care about the untold sufferings and woes of the Cambodian people, at a time when we do not know what will happen to the future of our children, how could it be that as Cambodians we could refuse to shoulder the responsibility even though the Cambodian problem was originally caused by Vietnam? He appealed to all of us as Cambodians to shake hands with each other, to strengthen our solidarity and unity, and to find our own solution in order to settle the Cambodian problem ourselves, for samdech euv said he was confident that even if the foreign parties, especially the SRV, do not want to settle the Cambodian

problem, if all Cambodians from all parties and all tendencies are united and work to resolve it to return to Cambodia its independence, freedom, territorial integrity, and sovereignty, how could Vietnam stop us from doing so, how can other foreign countries prevent us?

This was the major aim of our samdech euv when he granted an audience to the leaders of the four factions. In addition to his appeal, he put forth a reasonable five-point proposal in order to provide possibilities and a concrete and fair opportunity for all parties—not only Cambodian parties, but foreign parties as well—to resolve the Cambodian problem once and for all.

Allow me to make some comments on the five-point proposal of our samdech euv, our leader—in my opinion the sole leader of our Cambodian problem—as follows: First, because samdech euv saw that the regime of the DK was despised, hated, and rejected by almost 100 percent of all Cambodians, because he saw that the Phnom Penh regime was a foreign client regime, a regime not welcome by the people as it serves foreign interests, he said we must find a formula to unite all 7 million Cambodians. There is only one formula: Cambodia. We must stop talking about the PRK or DK. We must simply talk about Cambodia. We must change everything. Let us stop using the red flag with the yellow silhouette of a tri-spired temple or the red flag with the yellow silhouette of a five-spired temple. The two flags are alike because they are both red and yellow; but the spires of the temple are different. Because of this difference, the Cambodians have not been able to unite. We must get a national flag around which all Cambodians can rally. The samdech asked why we don't take the old flag, the flag in blue and red with a white temple. He said we must have a new flag approved of by all 7 million Cambodians. This was a reasonable proposal, a constructive proposal of the samdech euv. We must find a formula that will attract all 7 million Cambodians. This was the first of the samdech's proposal.

Second, though we do not like the DK and we hate the PRK, we must recognize that they constitute a military and political force to reckon with. For this reason, if we want to unite the Cambodians and to return peace to Cambodia, we must accept all parties, and all parties must also accept that no one party must wield the power alone. The Khmer Rouge must agree not to seize and keep power for themselves alone. The Phnom Penh party must not think that it is the sole representative of Cambodia. No party should think that it alone represents Cambodia. All four of us must stay together in order to control Cambodia, awaiting the time when our Cambodian brothers can freely and independently hold elections to choose their leaders. Before this time, the four parties must agree to stay together, temporarily, for the definitive decision on state power does not rest in the hands of any particular individual, but in the hands of the Cambodian people who are the sole masters of Cambodia. This is the samdech's second proposal.

Samdech euv's third proposal is also another correct proposal. We see that the armed forces of all parties think they are strong. For example the Khmer Rouge forces say they are strong; the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen forces say they are strong; the Son Sann forces and the ANS all say they are strong. No one would want to let us resolve the Cambodian problem peacefully. In this connection, the samdech made his third proposal: in order to have the possibility to resolve the Cambodian problem definitively, the four armies must be kept under a new framework called the national army of Cambodia. This is not a national army of the DK, nor is it a national army of this or that side. Our new framework is that of the national army of Cambodia. The general staff is also quadripartite. Say, if I am in this quadripartite general staff, will I permit any other party to use arms against our party now that we are one of its members? Therefore, this is another correct, reasonable, logical formula proposed by our samdech euv in Jakarta.

Fourth, now, let us suppose that we have formed a coalition government, a new administration, one would ask which administration will be in charge of running Cambodia? The samdech then made another reasonable proposal. He said we should set the new administration on the foundation of the existing administration, meaning the Phnom Penh administration, the regime within the framework of the PRK. This does not mean that the samdech said we should accept the authority of the present government, for after we have formed the national reconciliation government, the two governments, the two administrations, the two regimes of the PRK and Democratic Kampuchea would be dissolved. As for the administration, the administrative network, we shall use the existing one. Therefore, the provincial, district, and municipal governors are retained to run the country, only they shall be under the leadership of the coalition government instead. This is another reasonable proposal of the samdech.

I would like to take this opportunity to answer some officials in the country who have wondered about their future following the eventual return of the samdech. Our samdech euv has already answered: They will remain in their positions as before, only this time they will be working under the sponsorship, authority, and control of a new coalition government. This administration will gradually be transformed into a quadripartite administration or any other type of administration depending on future discussion and search for an appropriate formula. This proposal of samdech euv is most suitable.

Finally, the samdech said that all we Cambodians must accept that an international conference be convened under the sponsorship of the secretary general of the United Nations. We will request the secretary general to call up an international conference outside the UN framework. Why outside the UN framework? This is because the UN framework has already been rejected by Vietnam and the Soviet bloc. Since it has already been rejected, why should we take such a framework? If we

take it, the Cambodian problem will remain unresolved. The samdech thus suggested that a new conference be convened by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. The samdech went on to propose that countries to attend this conference include the five members of the UN Security Council—namely the United States, the Soviet Union, France, the UK, and China—the six ASEAN countries, Vietnam, Laos, the four Cambodian factions, Japan—the economic power in Asia—India—another power which has sided with the Soviet Union—and Australia, another Asian power.

This international conference has the duty particularly to guarantee Cambodia's independence and neutrality. To guarantee Cambodia's independence and neutrality, we shall have another organization, namely the international control commission which will have the duty not only to verify that Cambodia is truly neutral, but also to supervise the veracity of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal, to prevent the use of arms by one faction against another faction, and to supervise a free election of the Cambodian people to choose their own representatives.

Let me make it clear that while dealing with the proposed International Commission of Control, the samdech did not mention the international peacekeeping force in his proposal. This does not mean that the samdech has changed his mind. The samdech continues to understand that only this body can guarantee security for the Cambodian people, preventing any one faction, such as the Khmer Rouge, from returning to massacre their fellow Cambodians again. Samdech euv continues to understand that only this international peacekeeping force is the sole guarantee preventing a Cambodian faction, especially the Khmer Rouge, from using arms to seize the state power. If the samdech did not include this proposal in his five-point proposal it was because he wanted his proposal to be accepted by all Cambodian factions. He already knew that the Phnom Penh regime as well as the party of the DK would reject his proposal about this international peacekeeping force again as they did in the past. He said: Why should we propose it again if we already know that they are going to reject it?

Let me emphatically ask once again why do the two factions reject an organization that is capable of ensuring security for our Cambodian people? I just cannot understand the rationale behind their rejection. If the two factions sincerely want security and peace for Cambodia, why do they reject an organization that is capable of ensuring security for the nation? Vietnam, I mean the Phnom Penh regime, said it did not want it, and the Khmer Rouge, too, said they did not want it. All this is very puzzling to me. They say they want peace for Cambodia, but when an organization capable of ensuring peace and security shows up they say no, they do not want it. The samdech said: I continue to want it, but I did not include it in the proposal because you two have already rejected it.

This is a reasonable proposal of our samdech euv. To conclude my answer to your second question, I would like to stress again that if we really want to settle the Cambodian problem, if we really think about the woes, sufferings, dishonor, and shame of the Cambodian people, if we really care about the future of all Cambodian children, not just the future of those in the camps alone, but the future of the Cambodian children in Cambodia as a whole, we must take the samdech's reasonable proposal into consideration and make a constructive response to it. This proposal is one for reconciliation, not one for discord. It is an acceptable, reasonable proposal to all Cambodian factions and Cambodian patriots.

I take the opportunity of this occasion to appeal to all brothers, all personalities, especially those within the framework of the Phnom Penh regime to please study the proposal of the samdech who was a national leader and who used to bring upon our Cambodian nation honor, pride, independence, territorial integrity, and freedom. Please study it, and if you find that it is reasonable, please seek by all means to force all Cambodian leaders to accept this proposal, not only for discussion but to study it and answer. Failing this, we must seek by all means to realize this proposal for implementation so as to resolve the Cambodian problem once and for all.

[Question] I humbly beg your permission to pose the following question: Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach also headed a delegation to the informal meeting. What is your impression about Vietnam's attitude in announcing the withdrawal of more troops from Cambodia.

[Answer] I have the following comment on this: First, it is true that this was the first time Vietnam agreed to talk with all of us. Though Vietnam refused to talk directly to us, the representatives of the national liberation resistance movement, Vietnam consented to join everybody at the table and allowed other people to point it out as being responsible for the Cambodian problem. We can analyze this as something good. It was true that Vietnam came there among the ASEAN countries and was accompanied by the Lao delegation, but during the discussion, during the meeting especially everybody—except Vietnam itself, the Lao delegation, and the Phnom Penh faction—unmistakenly pointed out Vietnam as responsible for this problem.

Second, in going there, Vietnam said two things: First, that it will certainly withdraw in 1990 and second, that the Cambodian problem is not a problem between Vietnam and Cambodia, but a regional problem, meaning a problem in Southeast Asia, or in other words a problem between Indochina and ASEAN. First of all, allow me to ask which one of the ASEAN countries, such as Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia, has troops in Cambodia? We only see 180,000 or 170,000, and now it is down to just over 100,000, Vietnamese troops there. Which ASEAN country has sent its civilian inhabitants to fell

Cambodian logs, to catch Cambodian fish, to occupy Cambodian fields, to trade in Cambodia, and to grab Cambodian lands and waters? None of them. There are only Vietnamese troops and Vietnamese people.

Mr Nguyen Co Thach wanted to insinuate that Vietnam has nothing to do there, that the problem is between Indochina and ASEAN only. This is a deception.

Third, he said he would really withdraw troops, but with one more condition: The aid to the resistance fighters must end. Let me tell you something, I raised my hand at the meeting and said that such a statement was not right. Not only was it not right, but it was unfair, even dangerous to the Cambodian people, who are fighting to liberate their country. In the Cambodian problem, there are two aspects. First, gentlemen, first there is the question of principle. It is like this: a UN member state has invaded and occupied another fellow UN member state. We simply cannot ignore this problem. This means that we need this principle for the Cambodian resistance movement, a law to carry on the national liberation struggle, and another law to accept the aid given by justice- and peace-loving countries to all of us Cambodians fighting for national liberation. We just cannot reject such a principle. [Words indistinct] I do not object, for I hate the Khmer Rouge as much as the rest of the Cambodian people do. I hate the Khmer Rouge from the bottom of my heart. Vietnam's wanting to have people cease aid to the Khmer Rouge is fitting. But do not mix the Khmer Rouge massacre of the Cambodian people with the Cambodian national liberation patriotic movement. The two are different.

At the meeting, I asked Vietnam: Since when have the ANS or the forces of His Excellency Son Sann massacred the Cambodians. We have never made any offense against the Cambodian nation. We are prepared to die if only to liberate the Cambodian nation from foreign aggression. Therefore, you must not mix the severance of aid to the Pol Pot regime with the severance of aid to the Cambodian national liberation resistance movement.

I would like to make it very clear to you and to all listeners of Radio Voice of the Khmer: Vietnam is very wicked and the Phnom Penh regime very cunning. They want to place the Pol Pot issue on the same shelf as the matter about the Cambodian people's struggle to liberate their nation. All of this is part of the aspect known as principle.

There is yet another aspect: the realities. There are two realities in the so-called Cambodian problem, the first being the occupation of Cambodia by the troops of the SRV, the aggression, the sending of Vietnamese citizens to live in Cambodia and grab Cambodian lands; and the second being the threat from the Khmer Rouge of the group of Mr Pol Pot. However, if we want to settle the Cambodian problem, we must not link the two together. The aggression is one issue and the threat is another, for

the first reality is a matter between Vietnam and Cambodia while the second is an internal Cambodian matter. Therefore, Vietnam must agree to settle the issue directly involving Vietnam and Cambodia and let Cambodia settle the Cambodian problem, meaning that Vietnam must let the Cambodian people and all of us settle the Cambodian problem. If Mr Heng Samrin wants to resolve the Khmer Rouge problem, he should not call on foreigners to help resolve it. He and the samdech should resolve the Khmer Rouge problem together. This is the correct way. He should not rely on Vietnam to do it. We Cambodians must show the foreign countries that we are capable of setting our house ourselves. If the Khmer Rouge claim that they too are patriots, that they do not want to massacre the Cambodians again, they must show now, inside Cambodia that they have really changed. But from what I have seen, they have barely changed at all. Therefore, this is a Cambodian problem. And I would like to end my analysis here.

Let us return to your question about Vietnam's attitude. Vietnam made no constructive proposals in Jakarta. He [Nguyen Co Thach] just reiterated the 1990 offer. Not only just this, he even added a condition.

Allow me to make it clear to all esteemed listeners of the Radio Voice of the Khmer. The so-called Cambodia problem has two aspects: first, the international aspect involving Vietnam and Cambodia and second, the purely Cambodian aspect concerning Cambodian unity to rebuild the nation and to prevent the return of danger and harm to Cambodia. The second aspect is a question how all Cambodians should agree to unite with each other in order to guarantee the future security of Cambodia.

[Question] Before concluding, does Your Highness have anything to say to all Cambodian people [words indistinct].

[Answer] In concluding this interview in my capacity as the personal representative of our Samdech Euv Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, as commander in chief of the ANS, and as a Cambodian, I would like to take this opportunity to express to all esteemed compatriots inside Cambodia, all venerable monks, and all Cambodian patriots in the administration of the Phnom Penh regime as well as in the ranks of the Phnom Penh armed forces my deepest and endless gratitude for the support all of you have given to samdech euv's purely patriotic army by cooperating, supporting, and assisting it during its historic mission to win back for our Cambodian people their honor, pride, and freedom. I pay my gratitude on behalf of samdech euv to all of you grandmas, grandpas, uncles, and aunts. We will never forget you. We will never forget the kindness and generosity of all venerable monks. Moreover, I ask all of you to remain assured that the guarantee for the future of a 100 percent independent and free Cambodia can be obtained when our samdech euv is able to resolve the Cambodia problem in the interest of Cambodia, when after resolving the

Cambodia problem he is able to return once again to rule Cambodia and lead this country toward progress and development like all civilized countries. Besides this we have no chance nor means at all.

Indeed, I who am fighting, all of us who are fighting for freedom and democracy, must not think that the samdech alone can do it. We must let the Cambodian people choose their own leaders. Yet I still must say it because, by looking at the past, I believe that only a regime with our samdech euv as the leader can restore to the Cambodian nation its honor, pride, freedom, and independence. Since his ouster, how deep is the hell which all of us have experienced up to now! All of you see and know it. Please, use your common sense to choose which regime is good and which is bad, which leader is good and which is bad. I am convinced that in the future if all Cambodian people have the opportunity and freedom to vote and elect their own leaders, they will certainly elect our samdech euv. However, while waiting for the moment when we will have the possibility to express our free will, we must first resolve the Cambodia problem peacefully and politically. Nevertheless, on the road toward achieving this political solution, we must go through the fighting stage. In this stage we need a strong national army, a strong patriotic army that really loves samdech euv in order to carry on the struggle effectively.

We need guarantee [passage indistinct]. I believe that only a strong patriotic samdech euv army has the possibility to end the blood-letting war which serves alien interests. Only this can stop this war and guarantee the future peace and freedom of the Cambodian people. I would like to further appeal to all patriots to continue support for the ANS. If possible, come over and join it in order to turn this army into a major army. When this army becomes a major one, all Cambodian people will join and live with it. This is the only way which can prevent any faction from using arms to massacre or threaten the security of the Cambodian people. When there is no faction using arms to threaten the security of the Cambodian people, what other pretext will Vietnam have to occupy Cambodia, what other pretext will Vietnam have to return to occupy Cambodia? There will be none. This is all my appeal.

In conclusion, I extend best wishes to all brothers, grandmas, grandpas, uncles, and aunties and especially to the courageous ANS combatants as well as all resistance fighters throughout the country. May the three Buddhist jewels, all sacred objects, especially the spiritual protectors of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the souls of all former Cambodian kings who used to preserve our Cambodian state bless all of you with happiness and success to enable all of you to liberate our beloved motherland. I believe that now more than ever before our Cambodian people are united; now more than ever before we have the possibility and the chance to build a new Cambodia with its independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and freedom and to give back to the humiliated Cambodian people their highest honor. Thank you.

Commentary on Sincerity of Troop Withdrawal

BK1308082188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Political commentary: "The Question of Vietnamese Troop Withdrawal From Cambodia"]

[Text] The problem of a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia is the most important issue in the search for peace in Cambodia.

Vietnam has now admitted that its presence in Cambodia is really an incorrect act. We know about this from Mr Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnamese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who stated himself and told Mr Hun Sen that Vietnam would withdraw all of its troops at the end of 1989 or in the first quarter of 1990 at the latest.

Therefore, the question is whether Vietnam will really withdraw its troops and what the Heng Samrin regime, which has claimed it also wants genuine independence, will do to show the other Cambodian parties that Vietnam will really withdraw from the Cambodian motherland as promised without leaving any Vietnamese soldiers, either in the form of Vietnamese or Heng Samrin soldiers, inside Cambodia after the scheduled withdrawal.

During the Jakarta informal meeting at Bogor Palace in Indonesia, Mr Hun Sen's delegation said Vietnam and the Heng Samrin regime have fixed a clear timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, and Mr Hun Sen asked the other side to fix a timetable for an end to their aid to the genocidal clique, enabling it to continue its massacre of the Cambodians.

Mr Hun Sen also stressed that he was not worried about the armies of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and His Excellency Son Sann saying that the armies of these two parties do not kill Cambodians, adding that he meant the Khmer Rouge army. This means that Mr Hun Sen wanted a timetable on an end to aid for the Khmer Rouge, that is the DK side headed by Mr Khieu Samphan.

China has already replied that it will continue to provide arms to the Khmer Rouge as long as Vietnam still occupies Cambodia.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jin Guihua, told newsmen that China is firm in its principled stand of continuing to provide assistance to the Cambodian resistance movement, which includes the Khmer Rouge, as long as Vietnam still controls Cambodia. This means there would be no need for China to continue aid to the Khmer Rouge if all Vietnamese troops are withdrawn from Cambodia. If so, how will Vietnam and the Heng Samrin regime show the world and the Cambodian people that Vietnam will really withdraw its troops from Cambodia?

Vietnam has promised in a press conference that it will withdraw its troops and China has also promised through newsmen that it will continue to provide aid as long as the Vietnamese are still present in Cambodia. Therefore, Vietnam and the Heng Samrin regime must clearly prove their words with genuine deeds. Unilaterally announcing a troop withdrawal is no use. The troop withdrawal must be genuinely supervised.

How can anyone believe that Vietnam has really withdrawn its troops when, following the Vietnamese announcement about troop withdrawals, there were successive reports of Vietnam stealthily sending back several truckloads of its troops and of Vietnamese soldiers disguising themselves as Heng Samrin soldiers.

The two other Cambodian resistance fronts, that is Fun-
cinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the KPNLF headed by His Excellency Son Sann, do not support the presence of either the Vietnamese or the Khmer Rouge. We want to see a Cambodia that is not controlled by the Vietnamese or the group of murderers as during 1975-79.

This is the real aspiration of the Cambodian people in general.

SRV Tank 'Burned' on Pailin Battlefield

BK1608034488 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] On 8 August, a Vietnamese tank fully loaded with troops moving from Battambang ran into our mine ambush and attack between Rong Kuk and Tuol Sdei on Route 10, Pailin battlefield. The tank burned down on the spot. We killed five Vietnamese soldiers and wounded five others. Moreover, we destroyed 1 B-40 and 1 B-41 rocket launchers, and 200 meters of telephone cable.

Mine in Phnom Penh Reportedly Kills Two

BK1308044988 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Our guerrillas laid a mine in Tuol Tampung Market of Phnom Penh City on 3 August. Stepped on, the mine exploded, instantly killing two Vietnamese enemies. They were a Vietnamese ward chief and a Vietnamese security police chief.

Indonesia

Jakarta Working Group Urged To Hold Early Meet

BK1408080888 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0652 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 14 (ANTARA/OANA)—Indonesia has asked the Jakarta informal meeting working group to hold a meeting here at the end of this month or in mid-October.

"The advancement of the schedule is meant to keep the momentum of the Jakarta informal meeting", Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said at the inauguration of the Head of State Audit Board here Saturday.

The Indonesian proposal has been extended to all participants of the Jakarta informal meeting [JIM] namely the warring parties in Kampuchea, Vietnam, Laos and member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

At the Jakarta informal meeting in Bogor on July 25-28 all of the participants agreed to form a working group consisting of senior officials to discuss details of the general agreement made at the meeting and arrange recommendations for the second meeting—after the JIM—for discussion of the Kampuchean conflict.

The working group is scheduled to complete its task in December this year at the latest.

Briefs

Auditing Board Chief

President Suharto has reappointed Muhammad Yusuf as chairman of the State Auditing Board for the 1988-93 term. Marathon Wiryamiharja was named vice chairman. They will be sworn in by the Supreme Court chairman at the State Palace on 13 August. [Summary] *[BK10080748 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 10 Aug 88]*

Laos

Party Instruction on Election Guidance

BK1608045188 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 10 Aug 88

["Instruction issued by the Secretariat of the LPRP Central Committee" on "the stepping up of leadership and guidance for the holding of elections of people's representatives at provincial, city municipal, and central levels"; dated 6 August]

[Text] Because of the guidance prior to, and organization of, the recent second election of district level people's representatives, it is noted that the election ended successfully, that the multiethnic people of all classes paid more attention to their fundamental civil political rights and their popular democratic rights, and that they promoted and enhanced their rights to mastery in electing their own genuine representatives. We have come to clearly understand further the conditions of the contingent of cadres and the close relationship among the multiethnic people under the party's leadership. It can be said that this election of district level people's representatives has significantly contributed to further consolidating and perfecting, ever more firmly, the organizational apparatuses of the party and state and of the mass

organizations, thereby imbuing our administration with the administrative power which genuinely comes from and commands the trust of the people.

Throughout the period of making preparations for the election of people's representatives, many localities learned how to coordinate various tasks with one another and to organize various mass movements to score achievements to welcome the election day. Outstandingly noteworthy were the movements involving production and the maintenance of public security. This was why production was vigorously boosted while public order and tranquillity was effectively maintained on the election day.

However, we have still encountered a number of remaining weak points and shortcomings which must be attentively corrected and rectified with a view to successfully fulfilling the objectives and expectations of the forthcoming elections of people's representatives at the provincial, city municipal, and central levels.

The major weak points and shortcomings are as follows:

1. The party committees at various levels failed to firmly grasp the objectives of the second election of district level people's representatives. As a result, they failed to attentively encourage all cadres, state employees, workers, combatants, and people to widely, thoroughly, and profoundly take part in that political life campaign by using party units as the basis. The education, training, and propaganda campaigns were carried out only in width, not in depth. This was why, generally speaking, the people have not yet come to profoundly understand the significance of democracy at each point or each content of the law and in each step of the holding of the election of people's representatives.

2. The party committees in many localities failed to pay attention to leading and guiding the candidates in selecting their objectives and to appropriately placing them in each constituency. That was why the people in certain localities petitioned that the candidates standing in their respective constituencies be changed. As a result, it was necessary to do so several times. Moreover, a lack of close coordination still prevailed between the party leadership and the roles of the Lao Front for National Construction and other organizations as stipulated in Article 4 of the Law on Election of People's Representatives. As a result, they failed to effectively make use of their consolidated strength in educating voters and carrying election campaigns for candidates. Consequently, voters in many localities did not know the backgrounds of candidates. That was one of the causes why many key cadres with full qualifications failed to get elected as people's representatives.

3. Some party committees failed to pay close attention to guiding work in carrying out the election. They allowed the committees in charge of the election to carry out the work by themselves. That was why the execution of

election work was not all-sided and not all forces were mobilized to carry it out. The organizing of the election by the committee in charge of the election in many localities appeared only in form while only a handful of persons were actually involved in the election. In addition, the committees in charge of the election in many localities failed to study and to firmly grasp the contents of the Law on Election of People's Representatives and other related instruction documents. As a result, they encountered difficulties in carrying out their work. Moreover, many localities failed to understand that the election of people's representatives was the collective duty of all organizations. That was why they did not coordinate and cooperate with the election committees at their levels in a harmonious manner and still considered that the election was solely the task of the election committees.

4. Many localities were unable to understand the tricks of the enemies and bad elements in undermining the election through various forms. As a result, they lacked a sense of vigilance to oppose the enemies' subversive acts.

To continue implementing the overall policy of our party in broadening the socialist democracy and in perfecting the application of democratic principles and civil rights and freedoms, on the basis of the observance and assessment of the outcome of the second district-level election of people's representatives, the party Central Committee Political Bureau has decided to carry out the elections of people's representatives at the provincial, city municipal, and central levels within the year 1988 by holding them on two different occasions. As for the actual date and time of the election at each level, they will be announced later in a decree by the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

To score effective results for the above-mentioned elections at the two levels, the party committees at various levels must pay attention to carrying out the following tasks:

1. Organize to comprehensively assess and review good and weak points and thoroughly learn lessons, from each task and each point, from the election of district level people's representatives. On this basis, work out a plan to appropriately lead and guide the election committees at their levels to carry out work from now until the holding of the first meeting of the people's councils at the provincial and city municipal levels and the completion of the central-level election of people's representatives.

2. Continue to study and firmly grasp objectives, expectations, and orientations of the elections of people's representatives as stipulated in the instruction No 08 dated 16 March 1988 of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee and as noted in various documents of the National Election Committee. One of the most basic points is to clearly understand that the elections of people's representatives at the various levels on these occasions are aimed at consolidating various party and

state organizations and other mass organizations to make them simple, but with high quality and efficiency in accordance with the spirit of new mechanism and to make the state power organizations genuinely serve as organizations belonging to the people, coming from the people, and for the people. All these are intended to improve the popular democratic power system under the party's leadership to make it firm and strong at all levels. As for the principle of the people's representatives, it must reflect our party's social policy in the present stage, that is to maintain an alliance and solidarity of multiethnic people of all strata.

3. Direct the party units to implement the key role in educating and training the people with a view to nourishing their sense and ability of self-mastery in order to make the elections democratic and legal and to guarantee that the most appropriate representatives be elected.

4. Urgently consolidate the Lao Front for National Construction to enable it to successfully fulfill its roles and responsibilities as stipulated in Article 4 of the Law on the Elections of People's Representatives and to fulfill the political tasks of the front as put forth by the Front Central Committee in its second congress.

5. Improve and reorganize the committees in charge of the elections at various levels and their auxiliary organizations to guarantee their efficiencies and abilities in practically carrying out activities and to guarantee that certain persons be in active service to guide, supervise, and encourage the implementation of various tasks involving the elections. Any member of the committees in charge of the elections, who is assigned to do other tasks and thus cannot join in doing the election work, must be replaced by someone else.

6. Another issue which requires attention is to encourage the masses to step up various movements to combine the preparatory work for the elections of people's representatives with the concrete implementation of political tasks by their respective organizations. Upon receiving this instruction, responsible committees attached to central organizations and provincial and city municipal party committees are requested to attentively study and profoundly understand the instruction and then organize to put it into actual practice. At the same time, they are also requested to implement the report and order system as usual. Should they have any concrete question related to the elections, they are requested to contact the National Election Committee.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Speaks at District Meeting
BK1608102988 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 16 Aug 88

["Nouhak Phoumsavan Speaks About Reorganizing Cadres"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, August 16 (KPL)—"The selection of qualified cadres to the administrative apparatus at all levels is an urgent task that is to be materialized. So doing, it would ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the party's and government's policies."

This was pointed out recently by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, acting-chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the 4th congress of the party committee of Viangthong District, the northern province of Houa Phan.

Referring to the administrative power, the acting-chairman said that the administrative apparatuses at all levels have to be consolidated.

Touching on the development of economy, emphasis was laid on the development of integrated agriculture which produces goods for marketing.

Briefs

Party Delegation to USSR

Vientiane, August 12 (KPL)—A party delegation led by Boun-gnang Volachit, LPRP CC member and secretary of the Savannakhet [provincial] party committee left here on August 10 for a working tour and friendly visit to the Soviet Union. [Text] *[BK12081050 Vientiane KPL English 0911 GMT 12 Aug 88]*

Delegation Departs for PRK

Vientiane, August 12 (KPL)—A delegation of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee led by Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC and head of its Propaganda and Training Board left here today for the People's Republic of Kampuchea on an official friendship visit. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Sopha Khotphouthon, deputy head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the LPRP CC and other officials. Li Hach, Kampuchean charge d'affaires to Laos was also present at the airport. [Text] *[BK13080453 Vientiane KPL English 0914 GMT 12 Aug 88]*

Army Management Conference

Vientiane, August 15 (KPL)—The first conference to assess and draw experiences from the management and development of the Army held by the Lao People's Army ended early this month. It was noted that under the direct and all-round guidance of the party to the Armed Forces, the Army has considerably developed. With the introduction of means of modern technology and science in the national defence, the Army shows to be capable of opposing and timely thwarting the enemy's schemes. [Text] *[BK15081319 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 15 Aug 88]*

Philippines

Military Reports Muslims Free American, Wife
*HK1608110988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT
16 Aug 88*

[Text] Iligan, Philippines, Aug 16 (AFP)—An American and his Filipina wife kidnapped last month by suspected Moslem separatists near this southern Philippine city were freed Tuesday, a military official said.

David Blair Stiffler and his wife Elpidia were freed somewhere in Lanao del Sur Province and were being taken under military escort to a military camp here, Major Cayetano Ordinaria said.

He gave no other details of the release.

The couple were seized by suspected renegade members of a Moslem separatist group in the nearby city of Marawi on July 30.

The kidnappers did not seek a ransom and explained their action as a protest against the downing of an Iranian commercial airliner by a U.S. warship in the Gulf on July 3, killing all 290 people on board.

Further Report

*HK1608142188 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1400 GMT 16 Aug 88*

[Text] The kidnapped American construction worker and his Filipina wife were freed this afternoon in barangay Tugaya, Lanao del Sur. Colonel Eduardo de Jesus of Task Force Diamond relayed the report by Southern Command chief Major General Manuel Cacanando in Iligan City. David Blair Esteffler and Elpidia Benuya were kidnapped by Muslim rebels in Lanao del Sur on 31 July. They are believed to be in good condition.

Reports say no ransom money was given to the kidnappers.

Lanao del Sur Governor Zaid Pangarungan and other provincial civilian officials facilitated the release.

Bases Negotiations To Recess 18 August
*HK1608055788 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88*

[Text] Negotiations on the U.S. Military Bases Agreement [MBA] will be adjourned until next month since the Philippines and the United States have failed to reach agreement on two issues, namely, compensation and the antinuclear provision. Details from Tony Valencia:

[Begin recording] The Department of Foreign Affairs has announced that the talks will be extended until 30 September as U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt is expected to leave for Washington for consultations with his home office on the progress of the MBA negotiations

with the Philippines. Platt will be away for 2 weeks while Secretary Raul Manglapus is also slated to go on an official mission in ASEAN countries.

On other MBA updates, Manglapus has announced that the issue of economic sabotage as a security offense against the state will be included in the talks agenda, adding that it will come under the issue of jurisdiction and security. At present, the article on jurisdiction lists two security offenses, namely, treason and sabotage of state secrets or espionage.

The review will go into recess starting 18 August and will be resumed in the first week of September after Ambassador Platt and Secretary Manglapus return from their respective trips. [end recording]

Ramos for Gradual U.S. Pullout

*HK1608064788 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 16 Aug 88 p 12*

[Text] Contrary to public perception, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos is for the eventual abolition of U.S. bases in the country, after all.

Speaking before the House committee on appropriation, Mr. Ramos yesterday said the U.S. military facilities have to be gradually pulled out, but not necessarily after 1991—the year the current military bases agreement expires.

"As an independent and sovereign nation, we will like to see a gradual phase-out of the bases. The U.S. is sophisticating its technology to a point that it can transport its facilities swiftly through the seas; in which case, its land-based weapons are useless," he told the congressmen.

However, he said the abolition should be done gradually. He said the bases are not water tanks that could be easily destroyed. "It has to be a reasonable phase out so there will be no vacuum left to the detriment of the country's security interest," he said.

The revelation caught observers by surprise. Earlier reports quoted Mr. Ramos as saying the country was better off retaining the bases—a statement he later denied.

The defense secretary also observed that the Pacific is now the new center of the two superpowers' quest for supremacy. He said Asia is now the battleground of the shifting balance of power "and the country should not be lagged behind in complacency." He added that there was no absolute guarantee of peace in the geopolitical realm, indicating that the threat to the nation's security is now not only internal but also external attack.

"Maybe that is why Malaysia got easily into our territories; it has better facilities," he said, referring to the recent capture of Filipino fishermen in the South.

In defending his department's P21.3-billion proposed budget for 1989, Mr. Ramos said that aside from preparing for possible foreign aggression, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has to be strengthened in two fronts: stopping new hostilities in Mindanao and the region's secessionists ability to attack at a spur of the moment, and halting crime, particularly carjacking and robbery.

Using the game of basketball to illustrate his appeal not to decrease his department's budget, Mr. Ramos said, "It is not solely our fight. The alumni [and] the cheering squad must come out and proclaim their support to those manning the frontline for this democracy to survive. Without water and the things it needs to keep its players going, it cannot go on playing the game."

'Still Wide Gaps' in Talks

HK1608061788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT
16 Aug 88

[By Cecilia Quiamoaao]

[Text] Manila, Aug 16 (AFP)—The Philippines and the United States are still far from concluding a review of a bilateral agreement allowing U.S. bases in this country, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Tuesday.

Mr Manglapus, head of the Philippine panel, told a press conference that "there are still wide gaps between the two panels" reviewing the agreement.

Asked whether the talks were headed for an impasse, he said, "We're not coming all that close to an agreement," later adding that "we still have some way to go to arrive at agreement on various issues."

He also said he could not say whether they would finish the talks before U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Nicholas Platt, head of the U.S. panel, leaves for the United States on Friday.

"The events of the next few days will tell," he said.

Mr Platt will stay in the United States for consultations and a vacation until September, effectively postponing the talks.

The review of the agreement allowing Washington to maintain military bases in the Philippines until 1991 broke off briefly last month, reportedly when Manila demanded a 1.2 billion dollar package in cash, commodities and debt relief as annual compensation for the final two years of the agreement.

Washington offered less than half that amount.

Talks resumed August 2, and last week, the United States offered to increase its compensation package with commitments to buy more Philippine goods and other "economic options."

Manila receives about 180 million dollars a year as compensation for the bases, and this year's review is expected to have a dominant influence on whether Manila will allow the bases to stay after 1991.

Mr Manglapus refused to comment on reports in newspapers here Tuesday quoting Philippine Ambassador to the United States Emmanuel Pelaez as saying that the U.S. panel was still maintaining a hard-line position on compensation.

He denied reports that Washington was pressuring him for early resolution of the talks allegedly because any proposal for bases compensation had to be submitted to the U.S. Office of Budget Management before the U.S. Congress convenes to take up the fiscal 1989 budget.

Mr Manglapus said that although the proposed U.S. budget could not be increased after it is submitted to Congress, "adjustments can be made within that total amount. Special laws can still be submitted."

However, he admitted that this "might be more difficult but not impossible."

Asked about possible effects of the November U.S. presidential elections, Mr Manglapus told the press that he was "conducting the talks without any eye at all towards political changes in the United States."

The review has been highlighted by controversy over a Philippine constitutional provision banning nuclear weapons from this country.

Washington has opposed the ban, which it says would run counter to its policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons in any of its bases and vessels.

Last week Mr Manglapus said the nuclear ban was flexible. The Philippine Senate, however, has already passed a bill implementing the ban.

U.S. Adopts 'Hardline Position'

HK1608073788 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 16 Aug 88 p 7

[Text] The United States government continues to adopt a hardline position on the Philippine demand for a higher compensation package for the use of the military facilities here, Philippine Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez said yesterday.

Sources said Pelaez made the assessment during a two-and-half hour breakfast briefing he gave members of the inter-agency preparatory committee for the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) review which is acting as the advisory board of the Philippine panel.

Pelaez, who is here on a working visit, was asked to assess the view from Washington regarding the ongoing bases review, specifically on the issue of compensation, over which the talks were suspended several weeks ago.

The sources refused to disclose other details of the Pelaez briefing.

They also said the U.S. panel had been "using" the budgetary process in the U.S. to "pressure" the Philippine panel into accepting the compensation package it is offering for the bases for the next two years.

The sources said the U.S. panel headed by Ambassador Nicholas Platt had offered a "multi-million project" as part of the new compensation package, but that it was turned down by the Philippine panel because it was "not worthwhile, walang kuwenia [not worthwhile]" and was "not needed" by the country.

The sources refused to divulge details of the project, except to say that it had "many loopholes."

The Philippine panel headed by Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus earlier broke off negotiations due to a "substantial disagreement" over the issue of compensation.

The U.S. panel had reportedly offered a compensation package of \$1.04 billion a year, \$500 million of which represents the salaries of Filipinos working in the U.S. bases here and the purchase by U.S. forces of local goods. The Philippine panel, on the other hand, demanded a compensation package of \$1.2 billion a year.

The sources said the U.S. panel had expressed that it wanted the talks to end before the U.S. fiscal year ends in September, saying it has to submit its proposal to the U.S. Office of Budget Management before it is finally submitted for approval to the U.S. Congress.

Manglapus, however, said last week that the Philippines was not in a hurry to finish the talks, adding that it was not "absolutely constrained" by the U.S. budgetary process.

The sources said the talks are likely to drag on even up to October. Platt is scheduled to leave Friday for consultations in Washington and will be back only on Sept. 10.

Soviet, U.S. Bases Compared

WA1508185188 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 29 Jul pp 1, 19

[Article by Olaf S. Giron: "Vietnam Gets \$4 B for Bases"]

[Text] Moscow gives Vietnam an estimated \$4 billion a year for the use of an air force base and a radio-satellite spy station as well as the strategic naval port in Cam Ranh Bay—the biggest Soviet military facility outside the Soviet Union.

To the Soviets, the rent is worthwhile. This is a sharp contrast to the compensation offered by the United States government for the use of Clark Air Force base and Subic Naval Base.

A recent article by Alan Dawson in the BANGKOK POST was written at a time when RP [Republic of the Philippines]-US talks on the military bases agreement broke off due to disagreement on compensation.

Sen. Leticia Shahani, chairperson of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said the Philippine government is asking for about P1.2 billion a year but the US offer was only P750 million for rent, pay of base workers, and commodities.

Secretary of State George Shultz had indicated—and Ambassador Nicholas Platt echoed his view—that Washington is in no position to raise the aid in view of fiscal restraints.

Shahani, however, said she believes that despite the difficult economic situation that the U.S. is experiencing, there are ways and means of overcoming this difficulty if the Americans felt the bases are important enough.

On the other hand, because of expanded military facilities, Soviet aid—rent for Cam Ranh and access to Da Nang port and airbase—has reached over \$10 billion, Dawson reported.

The base allows Soviet ships and planes to patrol the seas and skies over all of Southeast Asia and into the Indian Ocean. They also listen into any communications they want in those millions of square kilometers.

Although there are fewer Soviets at Cam Ranh than there were Americans during the Vietnam War, the military base is today far larger and more sophisticated than when the US had it.

The US military used Cam Rahn mainly as a logistical site to support the war effort in Vietnam. The new tenants use the picturesque base to support operations from Japan to East Africa.

Adm. Robert Long, U.S. commander of Pacific forces, said Cam Ranh gives the Soviets the capability to conduct operations anywhere in Southeast Asia at their choosing.

U.S. military intelligence has reported that the Soviets today have far more equipment and permanent facilities at Cam Ranh than the Americans ever had, even when the war was at its height.

At the biggest U.S. naval base in Southeast Asia—Subic Bay—about 12 to 15 ships a month make calls. At Cam Ranh, the average number of Russian Navy ships that visit is 25 to 30.

The airfield, docks, and supply areas have all been enlarged. Submarine pens have been constructed. Warehouses and new barracks have sprung up. And security is tighter than ever, with a total system of six perimeter now in force.

Cam Ranh air field now has a great array of military aircraft. In Soviet military terms, a "small air regiment" is based there, and the commander has 60 planes at his beck and call.

The largest unit contains 16 Badgers, 10 of which are configured to carry and launch cruise missiles during hostilities. The others conduct electronic warfare, monitoring and jamming of communications, and naval reconnaissance.

The Badger is the Soviet equivalent of the B-52 bomber. During the war, those based at Cam Ranh could rain destruction in an arc stretching from Tokyo to Jakarta to Calcutta.

Cam Ranh can have two to four submarines at any given time. Submarines based at, or visiting, Cam Ranh include Charlie-class boats equipped with cruise missiles.

Hanoi allowed Moscow to station a pair of TU-95 reconnaissance planes and seven warships at Da Nang in the wake of the 1979 Chinese invasion of Vietnam.

The Vietnamese, in fact, encouraged Moscow to maintain a presence in the area to warn Beijing. Moscow was happy to oblige, sensing a strategic advantage with a base at Cam Ranh.

In November 1983, the Soviets took full control of Cam Ranh, and ordered the Vietnamese to move local villagers out. Overnight, Vietnamese bulldozers razed the villages.

Laurel Denies Involvement in 'U.S. Plot'

HK1608105188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Manila, Aug 16 (AFP)—Vice President Salvador Laurel said here Tuesday that he would oppose a military coup against President Corazon Aquino and denied that his recent breakaway was part of a U.S. plot against her government.

But Mr. Laurel, who said Monday he was joining the right-wing opposition after calling on Mrs. Aquino to resign in favour of a snap election, declined to say if he would back her in the event of a fresh coup attempt.

"Of course I would discourage anyone from attempting a coup because I am a man of the law and I believe in the rule of law," he told a press forum. "I believe in following the supreme law of the land, which is the Constitution."

When pressed on whether he would rally behind Mrs. Aquino in the event of another coup attempt, Mr. Laurel dismissed the question as "hypothetical."

Asked whether his moves had anything to do with allegations of a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) plot to unseat Mrs. Aquino, he said: "No, not at all. I don't even know the existence of such an operation."

Manila newspapers have reported allegations that the CIA has been mounting an operation in the Philippines which includes an orchestrated publicity campaign on government corruption as a prelude to a coup.

Mr. Laurel said he had not yet accepted an offer to lead the unified right-wing opposition and was still awaiting a formal reply from Mrs. Aquino on his proposal Saturday for both of them to step down in favour of an election.

The vice president has long been estranged from Mrs. Aquino and his call for their joint resignation to pave the way for a new presidential election was widely seen as a bid to replace her before her terms ends in 1992.

Mr. Laurel, 59, who has expressed support for the grievances of rebellious military men, would automatically succeed Mrs. Aquino if she dies, resigns, becomes disabled or is ousted before her term is completed. [passage omitted]

Maritime Boundary Talks With Malaysia Proposed

HK1608062388 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is set to propose that the talks between the Philippines and Malaysia on their overlapping maritime boundaries be held in Manila early next month, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said, however, the Philippines had not issued any formal invitation for the talks to be held here instead of Kuala Lumpur.

Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Pablo Suarez said over the weekend that Malaysia had not yet formed its panel since it was conducting research on the issue.

A Malaysia embassy official here said Malaysian Attorney General Tan Sri Abu Talip would most likely head the Malaysia panel.

Jorge Coquia, DFA legal adviser and head of the Philippine panel in the coming border talks, left for New York over the weekend to attend the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and will be back by September, the sources said.

A DFA official earlier expressed the view that declaring the overlapping maritime boundaries a common area would be much easier to accomplish and "more realistic."

The demarcation of overlapping boundaries on the other hand, could not be done easily and could take years.

The sources said the Philippine panel was expected to push for a joint patrol and joint border crossing agreement with Malaysia.

The sources said, however, this agreement could only come about "once our relations are normalized with Malaysia," hinting that the dispute over Sabah would have to be resolved first.

The Philippines already has a similar agreement with Indonesia plus a mutual understanding that they have a common boundary area.

The sources added that while the Philippines and Indonesia have no "demarcated boundaries," no conflict had arisen because of the existence of this agreement.

The Philippines and Indonesia also have overlapping boundaries.

Manglapus on Talks With Malaysia

HK1608092188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Manila, Aug 16 (AFP)—The Philippines and Malaysia may discuss sharing disputed waters, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Tuesday.

Mr. Manglapus told a news conference the idea may be taken up in talks proposed last week by Philippine President Corazon Aquino and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to solve the countries' territorial disputes.

But he said the planned talks could not yet begin because Malaysia had not formed its panel.

"We have to be looking for ways to reconcile these historical claims. Several suggestions have been made and we do not necessarily subscribe to any of them at this point," Mr. Manglapus said.

He added that "the idea of a condominium has been suggested" on disputed waters which would involve "common ownership of the area and the sharing of the fruits, products of the area." [passage omitted]

Asked what action Manila would take if Malaysia did not form a panel, Mr. Manglapus said, "We'll cross that bridge when we get there. We'll just have to go back to our diplomatic arsenal."

He noted that Malaysian authorities recently arrested Thai fishermen for allegedly poaching in Malaysian waters even though Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok already had a "mechanism of consultation" on the issue.

He said Philippine-Malaysian relations had been "deeply affected" by a two-decade old Philippine claim to the Malaysian state of Sabah. [passage omitted]

Concurs in Dropping Sabah Claim

HK1408055588 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Secretary Raul Manglapus has agreed with a proposal for the Philippines to drop its claim over Sabah to maintain good relations with Malaysia. Manglapus has also expressed confidence that two countries' negotiations on the boundary issue will be successful. More from Tony Valencia:

[Begin recording] According to a Department of Foreign Affairs source, a date for the start of border negotiations has not been set because Malaysia has not formed its negotiating panel. However, talks are expected to begin in September to settle the border dispute between the Philippines and Malaysia.

Reliable sources also claim that Malaysia wants the Philippines to drop its claim over Sabah as a precondition for the border talks. They add that Malaysia has adopted a hard-line stance over the Philippines' Sabah claim and has already drawn up border demarcation lines which incorporate the Kalayaan Reef within its territorial boundaries. [end recording]

Fishermen Against Ban

HK1608080988 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The Federation of Fishing Associations of the Philippines has said it will oppose any move to ban them from fishing in the disputed waters of the South China Sea. The Philippines and Malaysia are still insisting that this portion of the seas belongs to them. The statement

was issued after General Feliciano Gasis, defense under secretary for plans and programs, ordered Philippine fishermen to temporarily stop fishing in the South China Sea.

Japan Asked To Relax Assistance Requirements

HK1308082188 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 13 Aug 88 p 25

[By R. Valino]

[Text] The Philippines is asking Japan to relax its assistance requirements by considering small projects for possible financing.

Under present rules, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan only assists big projects and disqualifies those considered by the OECF to be too small to finance.

"Our suggestion," National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) deputy director-general Filologo Pante Jr. said, "is to put all the small projects into one package so that they can be funded under the OECF."

Of \$1.1-billion total project loans as of the first quarter of the year, the Philippines was able to utilize only \$612.7 million for a utilization rate of just 54.3 percent.

Pante cited a number of reasons for the low utilization rate, including the slow processing of papers or documents on the Philippine side by the implementing office and agencies relating to bidding and procurement and the insufficient counterpart funds and delays in their release by the government.

"Based on experience," Pante pointed out, "if we submit a project with a rather small amount, they ask for a bigger one."

If that is the case, the NEDA deputy chief said, small projects would have no chance of getting financed by the OECF.

The government is looking into the OECF as a faster and more reliable source of funding for various local projects because Japan is now the top donor of external assistance to the Philippines, he said.

Japan, he continued, now accounts for more than one-half of total assistance received by the Philippines from bilateral partners.

"If we include the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank," he said, "Japan would account for about one-fourth of total assistance from both bilateral and multi-lateral sources."

On a global basis, he stressed, Japan is now next only to the United States in terms of official development assistance grants.

Foreign Agents Suspected in Stolen Passports

HK1608093788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT
16 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug 16 (AFP)—Foreign intelligence agents may have obtained some of 1,500 Philippine passports stolen from the Department of Foreign Affairs over the past year, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Tuesday.

Mr. Manglapus said about 50 employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs had been relieved of their duties and were being investigated for involvement in various "passports irregularities" which began in September 1987.

"The loss of the 1,500 passports is a major blow to our security because ... some of them fell into the hands of foreign agents," he told reporters.

The department said in a statement that passports from the missing batch had been found in the hands of Filipino entertainers in Japan, alleged Israeli arms dealers in Hong Kong, a Filipino domestic helper detained in Malaysia and a Filipino contract worker in Korea.

Immigration chief Miriam Santiago has said that members of the Japanese Red Army terrorist group have been illegally acquiring passports in the Philippines to be used for sabotage operations at the Seoul Olympics in September.

Asked about the claim, Mr. Manglapus said: "That poses an important problem, and our efforts, I'm sure, will help in meeting that problem frontally particularly since the Olympics are already coming very close."

He said he had asked the U.S. Government for support for a bid to extradite Ruben Romasanta, a former Foreign Affairs Department official allegedly involved in passport irregularities and believed to be in the United States.

Asked if local communist insurgents may have acquired some of the 1,500 missing passports, he said: "I am not aware of any evidence that has come up showing that any of these passports may have been used by the insurgents."

'Former KGB Agent' Seeks Political Asylum

HK1608065588 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 16 Aug 88 pp 1, 6

[By C. Balana and J. Gomez]

[Text] A Soviet national, who was arrested aboard a fishing boat off Palawan for illegal entry, claims he is a former KGB agent and that the communists are out to liquidate him.

For this reason, Koltchine Iouri has asked the Philippine government to grant him political asylum. Immigration authorities, however, doubt his story.

Iouri was arrested by a Navy patrol two months ago on the South China Sea and was turned over by the military to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID).

He was allegedly first seen aboard a passenger ship from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, before he was arrested by soldiers in a fishing boat. He is now at the CID detention cell at Fort Bonifacio.

According to immigration reports, Iouri had stayed in Japan for two years where he reportedly worked with the underworld Yakuza syndicate. From Tokyo, he proceeded to Singapore and stayed with friends for several months until he decided "to stay in the Philippines permanently."

Two immigration intelligence officers who spoke on condition of anonymity said that during the interrogation, Iouri said he was a former KGB agent. CID agents also seized from him several documents, including letters to his parents informing them of the dangers he would face if he decided to go back to the Soviet Union.

They said Iouri told investigators he does not want to go home because he does not want to be a communist and that communists would kill him if he returns.

But CID officials doubted Iouri's statements. They described him as "brilliant" judging from the way he answered questions during the interrogation. They said he is fluent in English.

"I don't buy his story," said an immigration agent. "You'd think he's crazy, but he answers our questions well."

Intelligence officers said Iouri, who has been charged by the CID with illegal entry, has a genuine Soviet passport. They said they have not yet deported him because the government is still gathering more information about him.

Mateo Caparas Inducted as New PCGG Chairman
HK1608084588 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 14 Aug 88 Pp 1, 7

[Excerpts] Lawyer Mateo Armando T. Caparas was inducted yesterday by President Aquino as new chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Caparas, 54, takes over from acting PCGG Chairman Adolfo Azcuna who is scheduled to resume his work as presidential legal counsel. [passage omitted]

Caparas was the first Filipino to have been elected president of the Rotary International that counts over one million professional and business executives as members, from 162 countries.

Interviewed by Palace reporters after his induction, Caparas said the President instructed him simply "to do the mission of the commission to recover all the ill-gotten wealth, or as much of it as we can."

His "priority," he said, is "to find out what's happening because I'm new in the commission."

"Certainly, I'd like to know what's happening and do what's necessary," he said. "If cleaning (the PCGG) is necessary, then we'll certainly try our best." [passage omitted]

Aquino Recalls Solicitor General Chavez
HK1508144788 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today directed Solicitor General Francisco Chavez to report back to work. For the details, here is Sel Baesa:

[Begin recording] The president's directive came after the 30-day leave imposed on Chavez expired. It will be recalled that the president ordered Chavez to take 30 days leave last month in the middle of a war of words with dismissed PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government] Chairman Ramon Diaz. Diaz was likewise ordered to go on leave. Diaz, however, offered to resign from his post which the president accepted. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the President has insisted that investigations on alleged graft cases filed against seven cabinet members be quickly concluded by the Office of the Special Prosecutor. Sel Baesa for the details:

[Begin recording] The president has requested a speedy resolution to the cabinet men's case so as to determine whether or not there is truth in the accusations.

The president, however, expressed gratitude for the administration's ongoing campaign against government grafters. She said that this was the reason why she met with Ombudsman Velasquez and Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez last week. During the meeting the president asked the ombudsman to obtain from the Office of the Special Prosecutor the list of government officials facing graft charges. [end recording]

Energy Board Announces Reduced Oil Prices
HK1608083988 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The Energy Regulatory Board lowered the price of petroleum products by an average of P0.2647 per liter. Price of premium gasoline went down by P0.27 while

that of regular gasoline dropped by P0.22. The price of kerosene, diesel fuel, diesel oil, and gas oil was cut by P0.30, while that of LPG was reduced by P0.22. The new prices go into effect on Thursday, 18 August.

Legislators Hail Price Drop

HK1508054788 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Congress leaders bowed yesterday to the passage of legislation to lower the consumer price of imported oil while spurring its local exploration and production to boost economic recovery. Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr told Representative Herminio Aquino, chairman of the Committee on Energy; Representative Igmidio Tanjuatco, head of the trade and industry group; Representative Margarito Teves; and Representative Rolando Andaya, Appropriations Committee chairman, to join forces in speeding up the enactment of measures involving oil products effective Tuesday. They and other leaders of the House of Representatives hailed the decision of President Aquino to roll back the prices of gasoline, petroleum, and other oil products effective Tuesday. Congress leaders said enactment of the laws would lower the price of oil to ease the economic problems of the masses.

Aquino Begins Campaign To Hold Down Flour Prices

HK1508055788 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] President Corazon Aquino urged yesterday the flour millers and bread producers to keep their prices down for the benefit of the country's consumers. The president's call marked the start of a government campaign for holding down or reducing the prices of prime commodities in view of another price rollback effective Tuesday. In an ugnayan [relating] dialogue at Malacanang with the country's flour millers and dealers and bakery owners, the president said they should not only produce quality flour and bread products, but also sell them at reasonable or low prices for the benefit of poor consumers. In response, leaders and members of the Philippine Association of Flour Millers, Philippine Flour Merchants Association, and the Philippine Federation of Bakers Associations pledged to heed Aquino's call to keep their prices down, or even lower if possible.

Editorials Analyze Laurel's Call for Election

Paper Ponders Laurel's Future

HK1508063988 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 15 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Has Doy Snapped on Snap Election?"]

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel's disaffection with President Aquino is nothing new. Many believe it started when she, believed then as the only one who could

dislodge the dictatorship, dislodged him from contention in the February 1986 snap election and considerably set back—some say effectively destroyed—Mr Laurel's presidential ambitions.

We do not know if, to this day, Mr Laurel believes he could have similarly dethroned Ferdinand Marcos had not Ms Aquino been imposed on him by those who campaigned for the one million signatures that started her political career. What we all know is that Mr Laurel stepped aside in the name of the political unity that eventually spelled Marcos doom. For this, he must be given credit.

We all know, too, what has happened since then. The vice president, unable to gain presidential confidence, reviled by her close advisers, and rebuked—understandably—in several instances for his often puerile and decidedly un-vice presidential pronouncements, resigned as foreign secretary and has since busied himself searching for that elusive rainbow that could yield a political pot of gold to give sheen once more to his tarnished political image. The latest of this was his attempt to forge a coalition with the opposition, including the group of Sen Juan Ponce Enrile.

True, Mr Laurel has not been the astute politician that some of those in his famous clan are. But, for all his faults, it is difficult to believe that he—or for that matter, the Laurels—are less concerned about the welfare of the country than those who continue to bask under Ms Aquino's patronage, some of whom have used this to inflict on the people their brand of corruption that has put to shame even the buccaneers of Marcos. The Administration, it must be said, is not entirely guiltless on Mr Laurel's disenchantment. This must include the President herself for readily believing in the caveats of those who saw in Mr Laurel a potential saboteur of her blueprint for government—including their own private agenda—and for ultimately shutting the vice president out of the affairs of government, leaving him no choice but to act the way he did.

The Administration, instead of muddling the issues raised by the vice president, should address them one by one.

As for Mr Laurel, he should try to consolidate whatever is left of his once formidable political group and whatever he stands to gain from his latest gambit. Sad to say, his proposed solution—that the President step down and call a snap election—does not seem right. He should snap out of it, or risk being called the politician who has finally snapped.

Columnist Provides Explanation

HK1508065988 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 15 Aug 88 p 4

["Postscript" column by Federico D. Pascual Jr.: "If Both Cory and Doy Quit"—passages in italics published underlined]

[Text] Vice President Doy Laurel is not operating alone. He and his group are carrying out a well thought-out plan to grab the presidency before President Aquino's term expires in 1992.

The excuse: To save the country from the "misrule" of Cory Aquino.

These things we must remember in appraising Doy's call for Cory and him to resign together and set a special election for the two resulting vacant posts.

Doy knows Cory will not heed his call. In fact, publicly daring her to resign is one sure way of making Cory hang on to the presidency.

Why then did Doy still ask Cory to step down?

The impatient Vice President's call is actually just one of a series of moves calculated to add to the pressure on the Aquino Administration and/or to create a crisis to justify a forcible takeover. Call it destabilization, if you will.

For those too lazy to take out their copies of the Constitution:

—If Cory commits the mistake of resigning, Doy the president-in-waiting *becomes the president*.

—But if both Cory and Doy resign, Senate President Jovy Salonga (or in his inability, Speaker Ramon Mitra) shall *act as president* until a new president and vice president are elected and qualified. (Note the difference between "becoming" and merely "acting" as president)

—If both Cory and Doy resign, on the third day after their resignation, Congress convenes without need of a call and enacts within seven days a law calling for special elections for president and vice president. The elections must not be earlier than 45 days nor later than 60 days after the call. The bill becomes law after approval on third reading without any need for a president to sign it.

Doy's formal break with the President sets the stage for him to now openly and frequently deliver diatribes against Cory Aquino—again as part of the campaign to destabilize her administration.

Doy knows it is suicide to take on a popular president. If he is now challenging Cory it can be because he believes that her mass support has been so eroded that she has become vulnerable.

Doy is not a lone ranger. Watch in the next few days how disparate opposition camps attempt to formally link up. They have been talking and if they find the time is ripe, they may accelerate plans to coalesce.

The trouble with such a coalition is the presence of too many "starts" in the opposition firmament. As in the movies, there will be the problem of billing.

Is Doy the alternative to Cory? He is not exactly popular, what with his almost chronic fumbblings. There is a perception that he cannot seem to do things right.

In fact, when he called that press conference last Saturday with a promise of a bombshell of an announcement, some people walked away disappointed that he did not announce his own resignation.

If Cory is unable to arrest her continued loss of political ground, we may just wake up one morning with another coup attempt—this time as bloody as is necessary to achieve the objective.

One variation is for the plotters to push Cory aside, and allow Doy the vice president to act as new leader—with a manageable junta serving as the glue welding the new partners-in-power.

If our reading of Cory is right—that she will not step aside to allow ambitious men to run her over—the plotters may have to ask the U.S. to fly her out maybe back to her Bostonian Camelot, or to physically eliminate her.

This, of course, is just one of the half, a dozen scenarios that our prolific fiction writers have been churning out while waiting for the Big Snap. In all these scenarios, there is always the U.S. as a necessary factor—which makes us suspect that whatever we all say, it is still the U.S. that is actually running this country.

Paper Says Opposition Misses Cue

HK1508072188 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 15 Aug 88 pp 1, 7

["Analysis" column by Amando Dornila: "Anti-Gov't Groups Have Been Missing the Cue"]

[Text] I have written time and again that the Edsa [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue] "revolution" cannot be replicated because it was an outcome of a unique configuration of events. Anyone or any group who plots to grab power by trying to induce the formation of an Edsa clone is going to be rebuffed harshly.

The Marcos loyalists in their comic-opera Manila Hotel putsch, the November 1986 coup conspiracy implicating then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, the Channel 7 siege by Marcos loyalists in early 1987, the failed Honasan coup of Aug. 28, the prolonged wake for Dona Josefa Marcos (the corpse of the elderly lady is still

awaiting a decent burial) and now the demand of Vice President Salvador Laurel—all of these had come to grief because they were built on a wrong assumption.

The flawed approach was that events were being provoked to try to push the Government into an impasse. Once the impasse developed, according to this strategy, majority of the people would shift loyalty to the rebellion and join the coup band-wagon. It was further assumed that it did not require a decisive seizure of strategic power centers—such as Malacanang, TV-radio stations, and the military headquarters and installations—to trigger defections to the side of the rebellion. All that was needed, it was said, was for lightning attacks to tie the Government into a stalemate, and then defections would ensure.

The attacks were made, indeed, but the defection by the critical mass of the population just did not come about. The people had shown that after Edsa they were not ready to join any further mobilization to change the political leadership they had installed at Edsa.

It puzzles me immensely why power adventurers have not learned their lesson from these failures. The reality is that critical mass support for such capricious exercises is extremely elusive.

History is harsh and unforgiving to those who miss its cues. The loyalists, Sen. Enrile, Honasan and now Laurel, are being left out of the mainstream of political developments because they have missed the cues. They were chasing a phantom.

Also, the communist insurgents had their share of punishment for missing the cues. They embarked on a boycott of the 1986 snap presidential elections, believing that electoral politics was a futile exercise to change leadership. This error caused the communists to be bypassed by the events at Edsa and prevented them from playing a significant role in the "revolution." Up to now, they have been traumatized by this error in judgment, and are paying a high political price.

Mr Laurel has a gift for misreading signs. Prior to his press conference on Saturday, in which he demanded the resignation of President Aquino and the holding of a snap presidential election, telephone brigades and the rumor mills had been hyperactive. Calls were made to many people, saying that Mr. Laurel was going to announce a break with the Aquino Government, and that his announcement was to be followed by the resignations of three justices of the Supreme Court and at least two Cabinet members—Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Public Works and Highways Secretary Juanito Ferrer.

Weeks before, the city was awash with rumors of new coup plots to be signaled by the purported resignation of Mr Ramos. Now these rumors are beginning to make sense. There was a plot to sow confusion, the latest

manifestation being the telephone brigade messages about defections. Of course, Mr. Laurel's "break" with Mrs. Aquino did not trigger the defections.

That the defections did not happen did not at all surprise intelligent people. But the theme of defections arouses curiosity because it was the leitmotif of the Edsa uprising—the defection of the military from the Marcos regime.

Prior to the outbreak of the military revolt on Feb. 22, 1986 at Camp Aguinaldo, the campaign for boycott and civil disobedience launched by Mrs. Aquino had begun to crack the civil structure of the Marcos government. Several Cabinet ministers were on the verge of resigning from the Cabinet, including then Prime Minister Cesar Virata. It was feared then that Cabinet resignations could precipitate a political crisis for the government. But the outbreak of the revolt preempted those developments.

If Mr Laurel had expected his break to be followed by Cabinet and Supreme Court resignations, that was wishful thinking. Also, the scenario was not very original. Again, the Edsa replication syndrome is hard to shake off.

The events on Saturday did not favor Mr Laurel. They continued to play tricks on him. On the same day that he announced his "break"—which was nothing new because, for all intents and purposes, he already had cut off links when he quit as secretary of foreign affairs—President Aquino stole the show.

She announced an oil price rollback, inducted the prestigious lawyer, Mateo Caparas, as new chairman of the scandal-ridden Presidential Commission on Good Government, and the Filipino fishermen hostages arrived from Sabah. Yesterday, the military hostages of the New People's Army in Quezon province were freed.

Whether or not the timing of these events were manipulated by the President, the point is that good news blunted the impact of the Laurel announcement. Events were happening to remove the wind from Mr Laurel's sail, and his issues of "misgovernment," etc. were bumped off from the headlines.

If these events tell us anything at all, it is that the President is either being favored by events, or at least becoming shrewder in manipulating them.

And let me paraphrase a familiar saying—whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make silly.

Military Alert Over Rebel Arms Shipment Report
HK1508145188 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The military has placed the Southern Luzon Command on alert following reports of an arms shipment from Palawan for the guerrillas operating in the

Peninsula Mountains. Southern Luzon Command chief Alejandro Galido said that the arms might have been purchased by an unidentified group whose ultimate goal is to overthrow the Aquino government. The shipment is reportedly valued at P1 billion solicited by the still unidentified group. The information on the arms shipment was said to have been obtained from the NPA by authorities in the region. [passage indistinct]

Military Urges Cancellation of Mison's Passport
HK1608095188 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 14 Aug 88 pp 1, 6

[By staff writer Ros Manglangit]

[Text] The defense department has decided to recommend the cancellation of the passport of Jose Ma. Sison, alleged founder of the reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines, (CPP), Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos disclosed yesterday.

Citing reports from AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, Gen. Renato de Villa, Ramos said Sison has been detected to have renewed his ties with the outlawed CPP.

Sison, along with several other rebel leaders, was released in March 1986 on orders of President Aquino as a gesture of national reconciliation soon after she came to power. Sison is reportedly in Europe working for the rebels' international front organizations.

De Villa told reporters "newly acquired" evidence indicated that Sison has been re-elected as CPP chairman, but the post is being held in the meantime by Benito Tiamzon.

The AFP chief said the recent findings against Sison were enough basis for a new criminal action.

His release in 1986 in effect cleared Sison, a former University of the Philippines professor, of the rebellion charges before military courts arising from his CPP membership and two arms smuggling attempts the party allegedly carried out in 1972 and 1974 for its military arm, the New People's Army.

In a related development, Ramos also said two key committees of the House of Representatives have expressed agreement with the military high command on the need to restore the death penalty for the crime of rebellion. The legislators also promised more support for the initiatives of the defense-military establishment toward stricter national security laws.

Ramos and the major AFP service commanders met the congressmen yesterday at the DND [Department of National Defense] building for a briefing on the security situation.

The congressmen are members of the House committees on national defense headed by Rep. Jose Yap (PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party—Strength of the Nation], Tarlac) and public order and safety under Rep. Rodrigo Gutang (Laban, [Lakas ng Bayan—People's Power] North Cotabato).

Ramos said the congressmen promised support for legislation that would curb the rebels' fundraising activities and stop the flow of foreign money for the local communists under the guise of contributions from non-government organizations abroad.

Ramos said the House-DND meeting arrived at a consensus that the death penalty must be restored for rebellion and other serious crimes, such as drug trafficking, murder, and homicide committed with the use of illegally-possessioned or unlicensed firearms.

Rebellion was not among the offenses covered by death penalty in the pending House Bill No. 295 which seeks to reverse the constitutional ban on capital punishment. The bill has passed second reading.

Ramos said the congressmen also promised to look into moves to liberalize the licensing procedures for firearms provided that only law-abiding citizens are the ones given priority.

Another aspect which the solons showed interest, he said, was the issue of undue public disclosures of classified information from the military and how to subject it to regulations.

Yesterday's briefing included a film presentation showing Sison in a speaking sortie in Brussels sometime in March last year.

In the film, Sison reiterated his faith in the national revolutionary movement, adding that it has been gaining ground in the Philippines.

Sison said that the national democratic movement has under its umbrella several mass based organizations supported of the movement's cause. He identified the groups as Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [New Nationalist Alliance] (Bayan), Pambansang Kilusan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (PKMP), [Philippine National Peasants' Movement] Gabriela [General Assembly Biding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action], a women's organization, League of Filipino Students, Alliance of Concerned Teachers and Kadena [Kabataan para sa demokrasya at nasyonausmo—youth for democracy and nationalism].

He also aligned the Partido ng Bayan, [PNB—People's Party] with the movement.

United Front Commission Members Arrested
*HK1608063988 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 16 Aug 88 pp 1, 6*

[By GLOBE staff writer Dionisio Pelayo]

[Text] Five ranking members of the Communist Party of the Philippines' [CPP] national united front commission (NUFC) all 11 others were arrested by Constabulary troopers over the weekend in a series of raids in Quezon City, Kalookan City and Marikina.

Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, PC-INP chief, said the arrests "have greatly affected the communist underground's program of setting up front organizations in various levels and sectors of society."

The raids, he added, "are a followup of the March 29 arrest of top communist leaders in Metro Manila."

Those arrested were identified as:

- Domigo Anonuevo y Tabia, alias Ted, alleged secretary of the NUFC and suspected to be a regular member of the CPP central committee;
- Enrico Esguerra y Ferrero, alias Ricky, an alleged senior staff member of ANG BAYAN [THE NATION] the official CPP publication and an alternate member of the CPP central committee;
- Ramon Casiple y Casiple, alias Totoy, an alleged regular member of the standing committee of the NUFC;
- Amelia Roque y Mejia, alias Mel, an alleged regular member of the NUFC standing committee and secretary of the NUFC finance staff;
- Renato Constantino y Pareja, alias Rey and Emong (not the GLOBE columnist or his son), an alleged regular member of the NUFC standing committee and projected to become a member of the CPP's international department;
- Myrna Constantino y Pano, suspected member of the NUFC communication and technical staff (Comtech);
- Renato Pano y Malaquie, alleged member of the NUFC Comtech;
- Mercy Pano y Malaquie, alleged member of the NUFC Comtech;
- Mercy Squin y Malaquie, alleged member of the NUFC Comtech;
- Ricardo Tulipat y Bruno, alleged member of the NUFC Comtech;
- Wilfredo Buenaobre y Enaje, alleged member of the NUFC Comtech;
- Florida Roque y Mejia, alleged member of NUFC finance staff;
- Armida Roque y Mejia, alleged member of NUFC finance staff;
- Noriel Mejia, alleged member of NUFC finance staff;
- Jennifer Mejia, alleged member of the NUFC finance staff; and
- Theodore Esguerra y Pimentel, alleged member of the NUFC Comtech.

Montano said charges of illegal possession of firearms have been filed against Anonuevo, Esguerra, Casiple, Roque and Constantino.

Captured from the suspects were caliber .380 Manurhin pistol (the French version of the Walther PPK), a caliber .32 Czechoslovak CZ 83 pistol, a caliber .32 Beretta pistol, an M-16 ArmaLite rifle, gun accessories and bullets, two hand grenades, a smoke grenade, books, training manuals, computer diskettes, communications equipment and other documents.

Montano said joint PC Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) and Constabulary Security Group operatives swooped down on two houses and three communications posts during the weekend.

Col. Evaristo Carino, PC-CIS chief, declined to reveal the exact locations of the houses and posts, saying "follow-up operations, are still going on."

Carino said the 11 others who have not been charged are still undergoing tactical interrogation and "some of them may be eventually released."

Montafio said the CPP/NPA/NDF is planning to hold a "provisional national congress" in the last quarter of the year.

Because of the finding, Montano said, the PC activated Operations Plan Redshank aimed at dislocating the united front machinery of the communist movement and prevent the CPP/NPA/NDF from holding the congress.

The arrest of Anonuevo, Montano said, is believed to have set back UFC projects and plans "because he is doing the bulk of the job in the commission."

NUFC head Satur Ocampo, Montano said, has been appointed as the chairman of the CPP Southern Luzon Commission and "he is concentrating his efforts there."

NPA 'Rebels' Free Five Military Officers
*HK1508035788 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Aug 88*

[Text] NPA rebels yesterday freed the five military officers held hostage in Quezon. We have the details from Wen:

[Begin recording] The five military officers held by the NPA since June 1 were finally released yesterday. Rebel spokesman Gregorio Rosal said the release followed the mutual settlement by the civilian and rebel negotiators on three demands earlier set by the rebels. The hostages were turned over by Rosal to Public Works Secretary Juanito Ferrer during a 2-hour program held at the Mamana Elementary School. Ferrer said he would recommend to President Aquino that the released soldiers be assigned outside Quezon Province. After briefing, the

five military officers were flown by a helicopter to Manila, where they will make a courtesy call on President Aquino. The soldiers who were accompanied by civilian negotiators Ferrer, human rights lawyer Ed Abcede, Governor Edgardo Rodriguez, Congressman Oscar Santos, and District Officer Aguinaldo Miruanguin. The released hostages were Lieutenants Abraham Casis, Rommel Salamanca, Clarito Santos, Oscar Singson, and Sergeant John Jacob.

Thailand

Museum's Director Quoted on Lintel Issue

BK1308074788 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English
1500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The Art Institute of Chicago has refused to return Thaplang Narai Bantomsin to Thailand without getting something in return because it could set a dangerous precedence affecting all museums in the United States, the CHICAGO TRIBUNE reported on Monday. The Voice of America radio said yesterday the newspaper quoted museum director, James Wood, as conceding that the sculpture, the [words indistinct] with Vishnu reclining on [word indistinct], properly belongs back to Thailand to form the lintel over the east gateway to recently restored Phnom Rung Hindu Temple in Buriram Province. The newspaper quoted the museum director as saying that caving into the Thai demand could open a floodgate of claims from other countries demanding the return of historical treasures from the museum and that it would undermine the United Nations agreement that requires innocent purchasers of stolen arts to be compensated if they would return it.

Laos Releases 19 Villagers on 13 August

BK1408023888 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Nong Khai—The Laotian immigration authorities yesterday [13 August] released 19 Thai villagers arrested earlier this week for illegal entry.

Provincial police said the 19 villagers—five men and 14 women—had crossed to a Laotian village opposite Muang District here on Tuesday [9 August] to buy scrap metal and forest products from Laotians.

They were arrested by Laotian police and detained at an immigration prison for two days before being released, police said.

Hopes Viewed for PRC-USSR Talks on Cambodia

BK1308080388 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English
1500 GMT 11 Aug 88

["Special report": "Vietnam and the Jakarta Informal Meeting"]

[Text] In the end of July 1988, there was a constructive move in order to unknot the nearly 10-year-long Kampuchean conflict. That is to say the Jakarta informal

meeting, JIM. The Jakarta informal meeting was an ensuing discussion among all parties concerned with the Kampuchean problem. Two topics were raised for debate in the JIM. At the first stage, it was a discussion among the leaders of the four Khmer factions—namely, Prince Ranariddh, Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, and Hun Sen—aimed at outlining the future of Kampuchea. The second stage was the debate on schedule of Vietnamese troop withdrawal, as well as standpoints of concerned countries toward the Kampuchean problem in which the ASEAN countries, Vietnam, and Laos participated.

The Jakarta informal meeting was ended up with the chairman's statement in which he highlighted the word linkage between the Vietnamese total troop withdrawal from Kampuchea and prevention of any individual force to take control of the country, along with the cessation of all foreign interference and external arms supplies to the Khmer forces.

Superficially, many observers assessed that the Vietnamese and the Heng Samrin regime were the beneficiaries in the Jakarta informal meeting. The Vietnamese could avoid involving [as heard] in the Kampuchean conflict, at the same time the Heng Samrin regime could earn a certain degree of recognition. Most important, the Vietnamese and the Heng Samrin regime could drive a wedge [words indistinct] in the ASEAN states, especially the difference in views between Thailand and Indonesia. However, the parties concerned could not reach an agreement to resolve the Kampuchean dispute. In other words, there was no obvious progress from the Jakarta informal meeting. Major parties concerned maintained their previous positions.

The Jakarta informal meeting seems to be a formal meeting among all parties to the conflict. Nevertheless, we take a closer look. It can be said the Jakarta informal meeting was Vietnam's diplomatic loss. For years, the Vietnamese have never accepted the existence of the Kampuchean problem. The Vietnamese have usually cited that the Kampuchean conflict is a fait accompli. The Kampuchean problem is an internal war among Khmer factions. The Vietnamese are not a party to the dispute and will not enter into the talks with the Kampuchians. Once the Vietnamese attended the Jakarta informal meeting, it meant that the Vietnamese accepted the necessity of a resolution to the Kampuchean problem, which is considered as a destabilization factor in the region.

The linkage between the Vietnamese troop pullout from Kampuchea and the prevention of return to power of the Khmer Rouge as the single power in the future Kampuchea, along with the cessation of external support to the Khmer resistance groups, demonstrated Vietnam's interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs and Vietnam's insincerity to solve the Kampuchean problem. The Vietnamese troop withdrawal and the prevention of the recurrence of that faction are separate issues. The Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea is a violation of the

UN Charter and international law. But the prevention of the return to power of the Khmer Rouge is a case of Kampuchea's internal affairs.

It is an [words indistinct] that the Vietnamese which worry about the return to power of that faction and it is impossible that the Kampuchean people would choose wrongdoers as their rulers. The reign of terror during 1975 to 1978 will be a psychological block to return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot clique. And if any individual clique attempts to seize power by arms, the (?reprisal) of international peacekeeping force or international control commission can solve this question. Furthermore, Vietnam's demand for the cessation of external support to the Khmer resistance groups reflected Vietnam's desire to dominate Kampuchea. [Words indistinct] all peace-loving nations (?to unite) with the Kampuchean people to liberate themselves from the occupation of Vietnamese aggressors.

If the Vietnamese are sincere to promote peace and stability in Kampuchea and Southeast Asian region as a whole, the Vietnamese should stop interfering in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. The unconditional total troop withdrawal from Kampuchea is [words indistinct] move for the Vietnamese to show their sincerity. At present we also need constructive roles of the super-power concerned, namely the Soviet Union, which is the main supplier to a party to the Kampuchean dispute. We really look on the forthcoming Sino-Soviet talks on the Kampuchean problem, which will be held on 20 August 1988. In this connection, we fully hope that the outcome of Sino-Soviet talks will expedite the attempt to find [words indistinct] the political solution to the Kampuchean problem.

Central Bank Officials on Financial Situation

BK1508013588 Bangkok THE NATION in English
15 Aug 88 pp 13, 14

[Excerpt] The financial situation has reached a "turning point" for another adjustment in domestic interest rates, according to a senior official of the Bank of Thailand.

Meanwhile, Chawalit Thanachanan, the deputy governor of the Bank of Thailand, said over the weekend that the central bank is adopting a more cautious monetary policy during this period of rapid adjustment in the economy.

There is emphasis of careful economic management in three areas including ensuring that domestic expenditure does not become too excessive and preventing both the balance of trade and current account deficits from becoming too high.

Commenting on a call from commercial banks for the Bank of Thailand to pump more money into the system, Chawalit said the central bank has been fulfilling its role to increase the money supply according to the money market condition.

Some major banks have been calling on the Bank of Thailand to increase the money supply so that they do not have to borrow from overseas to fund domestic loans.

He remarked that the recent increase in the US prime rate, by 0.5 percent to 10 percent, shouldn't have an immediate impact on local interest rates since the proportion of foreign loans is only a fifth of Thai banks' total source of fund.

"The main reason for the upward pressure on domestic interest is, rather, competition among banks for deposits," he added.

He reaffirmed the central bank's policy to allow interest rates to adjust according to the money market situation.

Asked about the call by the Thai Bankers' Association requesting the central bank to seek progressive tax waive on new money instruments such as bank bonds, Chawalit said meetings with banks during the last fortnight focussed only on the situation in the money market.

There was no special request for assistance from the central bank, he said.

Meanwhile, a senior central bank [official], who asked not to be identified, told THE NATION that the money market has reached a turning point for an adjustment in interest rates.

He said the excess liquidity of major banks including Bangkok Bank and Thai Farmers Bank has shrunk. The situation was reflected in the growth in credit in the system to 25.7 percent in July while deposits only went up 17 percent.

The central bank didn't want the interest rates to adjust rapidly and therefore has been using the repurchase market for government bonds as a stabilizing tool, the official disclosed.

He emphasized that the Bank of Thailand would not change the standard interest rates for the time being but let market force work.

Central bankers continued to express concerns about the expanding economy which is leading to higher deficits in the trade and current accounts.

The export boom has led to large increases in imports of capital and raw material. During the first seven months of this year, the growth in imports remained at a high 48 percent.

This year's trade deficit is expected to be Bt71 billion while the current account deficit is expected to be about Bt30 billion, Bt53 billion and Bt22 billion higher than earlier projected. [passage omitted]

Trade Board Sees Higher Inflation Rate

BK1508013988 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
15 Aug 88 pp 13, 14

[Text] Having enjoyed a relative low inflation rate since 1982, Thailand is experiencing the most active movements of the consumer price index [CPI] in seven years and the inflation rate is expected to reach a high of 5.1 percent compared with 2.5 percent last year.

This was estimated by the Board of Trade [BoT] of Thailand in its weekly bulletin released at the weekend. The BoT attributes the sharp increase of the CPI to three main factors.

—Supplies of domestic agricultural products declined during 1987/88 due to lower production caused by prolonged drought. For the 1988/89 season, the US, India, Canada and China which are the world grain producers, suffered from drought.

As a result, Thailand's domestic and export prices for agricultural products started moving up from the early period of 1988 and this trend is expected to remain throughout this year.

—Higher production cost is also a major factor due to rising prices of raw materials in the agricultural sector, construction materials and consumer products. Besides, the baht value is also weakening against major world currencies, except the US dollar. The prices of imported raw materials and intermediate products have also gone up, leading to domestic price adjustments.

—There is growth in overall demand for products due to rapid expansion in investment for exports which started last year. At the same time, the country's economic expansion is fast coupled with increasing consumer purchasing power.

The BoT said that reports on salary adjustments for government officials and minimum wages for labourers were also the main driving force behind the increase in the inflation rate.

However, another main factor, which has helped slow down rapid increase in the inflation rate is the crude oil prices which remain stable.

Commercial banks have already adjusted the lending rates for short-term loans, after announcing new ceilings for deposit rates. This could contribute to higher inflation rate at the end of the year.

Vietnam

Sihanouk Claims Dialogue With PRK 'Realistic'

BK1608064588 Hanoi *Domestic Service in Vietnamese*
0500 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] According to foreign sources, during his visit to Japan, on 12 August Prince Sihanouk met with Prof Tomoza, an old friend from Hiroshima University. Elaborating on the situation in Cambodia, Prince Sihanouk said that if the Pol Pot and Son Sann factions continue refusing to negotiate with Premier Hun Sen, he will hold bilateral talks and seek a separate settlement of the Cambodia issue with the Heng Samrin administration.

The prince said: The government of Mr Hun Sen is currently in control and command of all of Cambodia. He is supported by the Cambodia people. Thus, how can we dismiss him as a lightweight?

I sympathize with Hun Sen. In return, he is the one who understands my feelings even better than Son Sann and Khieu Samphan do, Prince Sihanouk added.

Prince Sihanouk stressed: If the viewpoints of the Son San and Pol Pot factions are upheld, we must wait until the 21st century for the settlement of the Cambodia issue.

A dialogue with Phnom Penh is realistic, the prince concluded.

The prince also revealed that the biggest obstacle to the settlement of the Cambodia issue is China.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Indian Atomic Energy Group

BK1508155788 Hanoi *VNA* in English 1448 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—A delegation of the Indian Committee for Atomic Energy led by its chairman, M.R. Srinivasan, paid a visit to Vietnam from August 8-15.

It was received on August 13 by Vo Van Kiet, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, who highly appreciated the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, especially their growing cooperation in the field of atomic energy.

Present at the reception were Nguyen Dinh Tu, State Council member and head of the Vietnam National Institute of Atomic Energy, and A.B. Patwardhan, Indian ambassador to Vietnam.

While here, the Indian guests paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, they held talks with the Vietnam National Institute of Atomic Energy, and called

on the institute's establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Da Lat. The two sides signed a memo on cooperation in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purpose.

Meeting Held Marking Indian Independence
*BK1508155488 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT
15 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—A meeting was held here today to mark the 41st independence day of the Republic of India (August 15).

Speaking at the meeting, Dang Hoi Xuan, minister of public health and president of the Vietnam-India Friendship Association, hailed the all-sided achievements made by the Indian people under the leadership of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Minister Dang Hoi Xuan spoke highly of India's foreign policy of peace, independence, non-alignment, and its persistent struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, and other forces of reaction. He expressed his belief that the time-honored friendship between the Vietnamese and Indian peoples would be further consolidated and developed.

For his part, Indian Ambassador A.B. Patwardhan said his government and people highly valued the sentiments, close friendship, and mutual assistance between the two peoples. He recalled India and Vietnam's efforts for a world free from nuclear weapons and without violence in international relations, thus contributing to making healthy the political atmosphere in Asia and the Pacific for the noble objectives of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region. He expressed his pleasure at the fine development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Strict Implementation of Geneva Accord Urged
*BK1508082888 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT
15 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—"We demand that the U.S. and Pakistan match Afghanistan and the Soviet Union's goodwill and responsible attitude in carrying out their commitments in Geneva," says the leading paper NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper continues:

"Over the past three months since the Geneva agreement came into force, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have always observed the agreement, both in words and deeds. The Soviet Union has completed the first drive of its troop withdrawal.

"The Peoples's Democratic Party, the National Council and the Coalition Government of Afghanistan have done their utmost to solve remaining problems. The national

reconciliation policy has gained initial results in uniting large sections of the multiracial people of Afghanistan and persuading thousands of people from the other side into embarking on the right way. This is an important factor to the stabilization process. The world public has highly valued Afghanistan's and the Soviet Union's goodwill attitude in strictly carrying out the Geneva agreement, thus contributing to solving the Afghan question for the sake of peace, stability, security and cooperation in Southwest Asia and the Asian-Pacific region as a whole."

"In such a situation," the paper stresses, "those with keen interest in the Afghan issue cannot help denouncing Pakistan, a signatory, for grossly violating its commitments. The Islamabad authorities continue maintaining 'refugee camps' as training centres for Afghan reactionaries, providing 'sanctuary' for the so-called 'transitional government' and sending military personnel and war materials to help the bandits oppose the Afghan people. In addition, Islamabad has also concocted a myth about the Soviet Union's 'stopping its troop pullout' and 'dispatching more troops into Afghanistan.' With these acts, Islamabad has exposed its own scheme of carrying on the 'undeclared war' against the Republic of Afghanistan in pursuit of confrontation in the region."

"All peace-loving nations call for a strict implementation of the commitments made in Geneva, so that an end may be put to the conflict and the Afghan people may be left alone to decide their own destiny," NHAN DAN says in conclusion.

Ho Chi Minh City Party Disciplines Members
*BK1508154988 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
31 Jul 88 pp 1, 4*

[Text] Since late 1987, the Ho Chi Minh City party committee has closely guided the self-criticism and criticism drive conducted within its entire party organization. Many basic party units have seriously carried out this drive, broadened democracy, and collected viewpoints from the lower echelons. Most importantly, this drive has helped each party member to realize his weak and strong points and helped the party committee to improve its cadre management so as to effectively control party cadres and members. Through this drive it was found that cadre's leadership and management capabilities did not meet with the current requirements, while dynamism and renovation spirit in the leading echelon were not prevalent.

Basing on the results of this criticism drive, the city party committee will continue to guide the inspection of party members' behavior at all basic party units. It will be able to correctly evaluate the quality of party members and discover the outstanding and diligent ones for commending and fostering, while striving to perfect the organization of each basic party unit and satisfactorily prepare

personnel for the coming bi-level congress [daij hooij hai caaps]. This is an important starting point for implementing the campaign under the guidance of the city party committee.

To date, the majority of basic party units have inspected the quality of their party members. Among them 50 percent scored fine results, correctly appraised the quality of each party member, seriously conducted self-criticism and criticism, and collected viewpoints from nonparty members. At these basic party units 25-40 percent of the party members have satisfactorily carried out their tasks. They are capable party members who acquired a political and social background, who could respond to the renovation requirement, and who won the confidence of the party organization and nonparty members. As for the rest, more than 50 percent of these party members have fairly fulfilled their tasks. Though able to keep their good quality, these party members cannot consistently maintain their efforts; while their capabilities and self-confidence are limited. From 3 to 10 percent of them made many mistakes and their membership qualification should be reexamined; 2 to 3 percent of them should be immediately expelled from the party. During the 1st 6 months of 1988, 424 party members faced disciplinary action; 172 were expelled from the party, and 16 were sentenced to imprisonment. Among them, 13 percent were those under the city party committee's control and 50 percent under district, precinct, and corresponding level's control. Violations committed by these party members included: violation of policy and state law (34.6 percent), of party activity principles (49.2 percent), and becoming degenerates (15 percent).

Negative phenomena within the party and at state agencies are still prevalent and complicated. The city party committee recently guided various inspection and control sectors to settle many letters of denunciation and decisively concluded many cases, thereby establishing a base for dealing with party cadres and members.

Ho Chi Minh City Grass-Roots Congresses Held

BK1308154388 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City party Standing Committee recently decided to select eight units to hold grass-roots party organization congresses. These units are formed by various wards, villages, enterprises, state stores, administrative organs, schools, and hospitals.

District and precinct party committees and corresponding echelons are directing various localities to experiment with the holding of such congresses to deal with personnel-related matters in accordance with the spirit of renovation and with the principles of democratic centralism and broadened democracy. Opinions of both party members and nonparty members must be solicited for a report to review and evaluate the past situation and to present a plan for activities to be carried out in the period ahead.

This time grass-roots party organization congresses must point out the need to ascertain those key and most urgent issues of the grass-roots level and to come up with practical measures to generate enthusiasm within the party ranks, effect a change for the better in the local situation, and consolidate the confidence of party members and the masses.

Issues to be resolved by grass-roots units with concentrated efforts must include insuring production, business, and the work of units, caring for the welfare of the people, workers, and civil servants, guaranteeing democratic principles, rearranging and perfecting their working apparatus, making cadre assignments, improving the quality of party members, and consolidating grass-roots party organizations.

This time the election of party committee echelons must be renovated through efforts to link the promotion of close leadership with the true broadening of democracy and openness on the basis of firmly grasping requirements for matters concerning social strata, quality standards, and the number of party committee members and party members, for recommending people to party committees through secrete polling, for soliciting confidence votes from the masses in nominating party committee secretaries and party committee members, and for recommending new party committee members with the congresses for selection.

4th Military Region Disciplines Party Members

BK1508095588 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 29 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] To date, 100 percent of party committee echelons above the grass-roots level, 99.8 percent of grass-roots party committee echelons, 90.7 percent of party chapters, and 86.1 percent of party members at all party organizations in the 4th Military Region have conducted self-criticism. Besides criticism and self-criticism, all party organizations have carried out educational work and launched a motivation campaign to contribute suggestions on how to build the party. As a result, some 6,726 suggestions have been made. Based on these judgements and suggestions of party members and the masses, the 4th Military Region Party Committee Standing Committee and command have taken severe action against 121 cases of violations of discipline by cadres and party members. All the cases had either remained unsettled for a long time now or have just been uncovered.

The military region party committee has classified the party organizations and assessed the quality of all party members. Between 37 and 41 percent of grass-roots party chapters and party organizations have been rated as pure, firm, and strong. Between 4.6 and 7.4 percent of grass-roots party chapters and party organizations have been rated as weak. So far, progress has been recorded in the areas of sense of duty, organization, and discipline; of implementation of the party's leadership principles;

and of party members and cadres' quality and ethics. Nevertheless, these are but initial changes not far beyond the realm of theory. No marked progress has yet been recorded in concrete action. On the basis of these strong points and weaknesses, the military region party committee has taken concrete measures aimed at guiding all units in promptly embarking on the second phase of the motivation campaign so it can be launched in a deeper-rooted way and bring about better results.

Youth Union Secretariat on Educational Program
BK1408093188 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] On the morning of 12 August 1988, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee Secretariat met in Hanoi with the comrades editors in chief and deputy editors in chief of various news agencies and press, radio, and television services at the central level and in Hanoi, and veteran writers and journalists who take interest in the education of the younger generation.

Comrade Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, reported on the situation concerning the union's organization, the opinions of the youth, and on-going activities of the youth movement. The Union Central Committee Secretariat raised six issues that called for solutions to ensure effective youth education. These include: Contents of educational work to help youth enhance their ideological awareness and knowledge of socialism, youth's confidence in the party and state, contents and forms of activities of the union's organizations and youth associations, ways to promote youth's participation in the Union's activities, measures for overcoming the shortcomings of the Union's organizations at all levels, and relations between the party and state and youth.

So far, the union central committee secretariat has made efforts to pattern youth education after the spirit of renovation. Attempts have been made to improve the quality of 40 percent of weak union chapters from now until 1990 and to turn them and 30 percent of average union chapters into firm and strong organizations. Plans have been worked out to form an assault youth force for economic development and to shift to business accountability.

In 1987, as many as 80,000 youths joined various production units and devised 200 product samples worth more than 2 billion dong. The union is actively working toward a concrete and appropriate plan for improving the quality of youth education, for strengthening and ameliorating the relations between the union organizations and youth, and for helping the party develop a youth-related policy and prepare the contents of an educational conference to be convened by the union by the end of this year.

Students Union National Congress Planned for 1990
BK1508155688 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—The first national congress of the Vietnam Students' Union (VSU) will be held in 1990, it was reported at the recent session of the executive committee of the union.

The VSU decided to set up a scholarship fund for outstanding students. It called on all state institutions, social organizations, scientists and overseas Vietnamese to make contributions to the fund. The VSU is working with the executive committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union to grant 10 scholarships in the coming 1988-89 school year.

Ho Duc Viet and Mrs. Tran Thi Mai Huong were appointed respectively acting president and general secretary of the VSU.

Directive on Product Quality Control Issued
BK1308031188 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Recently, the chairman of the Council of Ministers issued a directive on urgent measures to be adopted to consolidate and strengthen the role of state control over the quality of products and commodities.

The directive pointed out that for the past several years, a number of products manufactured by various sectors, localities, and establishments have fulfilled or overfulfilled the quality standards set by the state. Nevertheless, many consumer products have failed to satisfy even the lowest standards and the people's taste. Many export products have been rated unsatisfactory for market demand.

All localities and units are reminded of the need to satisfactorily complete the following tasks so as to gradually stabilize and improve product quality control:

Production establishments in all economic sectors must obtain quality registration certificates and trademarks from organs of standardization and weights and measures before they start mass production and marketing of their products. Business and production unit leaders are responsible for the quality of products and commodities manufactured and marketed by their units. No products and commodities, including foodstuffs and drugs sold at discount prices, shall be marketed if those items are of low quality and may be harmful to consumers' health.

Inspection organs subordinate to product quality control agencies and other responsible organizations like the tax sector, the economic arbitration service, the market management sector, and the state science and technology commission are duty bound to take action against or make recommendations to authorized organs on how to deal with violations of product quality control and

weights and measures. They must work toward promptly promulgating a directive on action to be taken against these violations, and must appropriately encourage all units and individuals to conduct joint inspection work and help detect and deal with violations against product quality control and weights and measures.

Chairpersons of the state science and technology commissions, ministers, heads of general departments, chairpersons of provincial or municipal people's committees, and production and business unit leaders must, within their powers, improve the standardization systems at all levels in accordance with the need to renovate the management mechanism, and must promptly readjust set standards both in terms of content and effectiveness so as to make these standards consistent with the new management mechanism concerning different economic components.

State science and technology commissions are responsible for the evaluation and recognition of laboratories, research data, and standardizations and sample products needed to establish, step by step, a network of national laboratories to support local product quality control and to help our nation implement various international agreements.

Directive on Improving Management Policy Issued
BK1508103088 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] On 24 July 1988, the party Central Committee Secretariat issued Directive No 43-CPTU providing guidance for implementation of the Political Bureau's resolution on renovating policies and managerial mechanisms concerning production establishments belonging to economic components outside the state sector. The directive says:

To successfully implement this resolution, the Secretariat requests that all party committee and administrative echelons, sectors, organizations, and basic units satisfactorily carry out the following tasks:

1. Arrange for all party committee and administrative echelons, mass organizations, sectors, basic units, and laborers to study and seek a thorough understanding of this resolution. Ensure all cadres and party members firmly grasp the spirit and substance of this resolution so they can effect profound changes in their ideological thinking and action.

2. Under the guidance of the Council of Ministers, the Central Union of Cooperatives and people's committees at all levels must switch the operating direction of cooperative union organizations at various levels to a new operational mode that conforms with the resolution's requirements, thus enabling these organizations to operate in a practical manner with better economic results.

This task, which poses a great problem, must be intensively carried out in the immediate future on an experimental basis in a number of provinces and large cities to gain experience for later expansion to all localities. The switching or changing of organizations must be carried out in such a way that production and business operations are not hampered or losses inflicted on public property.

3. The Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers must guide the various organs concerned with drawing up the following legal documents to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and Council of State for enforcement:

—Sample statutes of cooperatives.

—Operational regulations for joint state-private enterprises, privately-owned enterprises, unions of production enterprises, and service centers.

—Policies on taxes, prices, capital accumulation, income distribution, expenditures, and business registration procedures.

—Organizational and operational statutes or regulations for the central council of nonstate industrial cooperatives and production units.

4. The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare; the Ministry of Finance; and the Central Union of Cooperatives must study the draft operational statutes and establish social insurance and retirement systems for workers and employees of nonstate units, then submit them to the Council of Ministers for enforcement. In the immediate future, all systems concerned with the income of and payments to cooperative members in the event of retirement or a labor accident, as well as for their burial expenses, should be applied in accordance with current regulations.

5. The Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, in coordination with the Central Union of Cooperatives, must study the task of attracting workers for nonstate production units. In the immediate future, it should carry out this task on an experimental basis in a number of cities, then report the results to the party Central Committee Secretariat so concrete policies can be formulated for expansion to other localities.

6. As already noted in this resolution, changes to the organizational structure and operational system of various units should be carried out in accordance with logical steps, striving to successfully shape new organizational models by late 1988.

7. The party Central Committee Industry Department, the Central Union of Cooperatives, and all sectors concerned, as well as cities and provinces with large numbers of small industrial and handicraft establishments,

must assume responsibility for observing and supervising implementation of this resolution. They must also regularly report the results of this task to the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat and the Council of Ministers Standing Committee so measures can be promptly adopted to overcome difficulties, obstacles, and shortcomings in the process of implementation.

Control Over Use of Videocassettes Discussed

*BK1308120588 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 11 Aug 88*

[Text] Minister of Culture Tran Van Phac has presided over a southern provinces' cultural conference which was held from 8-10 August 1988 to discuss ways to control the use of videocassette players and tapes and to manage rural cultural and artistic activities.

Participants discussed the urgent need to reestablish order in the showing of videocassettes. This matter, which has long gone out of control, has surfaced following the ministry of culture's recent promulgation of a temporary regulation governing the control over the use of videocassette players and tapes.

It was suggested by many participants that the Ministry of Culture should urgently ensure the supply of videocassette tapes with healthy contents through uniform stipulations, that local production of videocassette tapes should be promptly carried out in close cooperation with responsible organs, that selective import of video movies should be enforced, that the illegal import of video movies should be prohibited, that severe punishment should be meted out against organizations or individuals found illegally showing video movies with vulgar contents, and that those responsible for such actions be should tracked down.

As for the organization of rural cultural life, many participants emphasized the need to rely on the specific situations in each area and the financial capability of each locality to carry out cultural and morale-boosting activities in a positive and practical manner in support of agricultural production and in the promotion of increased economic results and of the building of new socialist rural areas with modern and healthy life-style; to pay attention to building the contingent of cadres in charge of local cultural work, especially those cadres working at cooperatives, as they have daily contacts with the people and to setting up cultural centers in various districts, including district seats, population centers, and villages; and to motivate the people to make voluntary contributions to building the material bases for cultural activities as we still have difficulty finding funds from the state budget.

Vo Van Kiet Attends Dong Thap Muoi Conference

*BK1408160188 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
29 Jul 88 pp 1, 4*

[Text] The steering committee for studying and developing the Dong Thap Muoi region held a conference in Ho

Chi Minh City recently to discuss measures to implement the region's socioeconomic plan.

During the past year, various localities (provinces, districts, and grass-root units) of the Dong Thap Muoi region and the central level sectors have made great effort in carrying out the region's development plan. As a result, a satisfactory yield was obtained in rice production, a rapid increase of grain procurement was attained, and material-technical bases (such as water conservancy, communications, and electric power projects) were initially built. The movement to increase rice multicropping has developed. The peasants enthusiastically received allocated land to build houses, to resettle, and to gradually stabilize their life and production in the Dong Thap Muoi region. Many populated areas, new villages and districts are taking shape. These initial results have created the prerequisite and good example for the development of other regions.

However, during the past period, the state has not appropriately, promptly, and uniformly invested in developing the Dong Thap Muoi region. Many sectors have not effectively assisted localities and grass-roots units to promptly overcome difficulties. Infrastructure such as communication routes, warehouses, public health and cultural establishments are still in great shortage. Great efforts and more capital are needed to meet this requirement.

Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and Council of Ministers first vice chairman, attended and addressed the conference. He expressed an identity of view to the steering committee's appraisal and proposals of delegates of provinces and sectors. He affirmed the responsibility of the Council of Ministers Standing Committee as well as of other sectors in carrying out future tasks for the Dong Thap Muoi region.

In the near future, we must formulate a perfect program for the Dong Thap Muoi region, define its developing path, design projects and formulate policies in conformity with the conditions of each district and production zone, and redistribute labor and the population. We must continue to carry out mechanization in rice and food crop cultivation, improve industrial afforestation, apply scientific and technological advances to new cultivation method, develop processing work, and increase the value of forest products. Each sector must conduct scientific and technical feasibility study to be able to obtain high economic results and to strengthen its bases for production cooperation with those who have capital, with Vietnamese living abroad, and with international organizations.

NHAN DAN Editorial Cited on Rural Land Disputes

*BK1308042988 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 8 Aug 88*

[Text] Dealing with the need to settle rural land disputes, an editorial in today's NHAN DAN says that the Political Bureau's Resolution No 10 on renovation of agriculture-based economic management and on the land act

already in force has clearly demonstrated the viewpoint taken by our party and state in their major policy of encouraging economic components and social organizations to invest their labor and capital and effectively apply scientific and technical advances to better exploit our existing land reserves so as to yield more marketable agricultural products for society. Meanwhile, the party and the state have also issued regulations guaranteeing legal rights for land users as well as legal protection against trespassing.

Facts obtained from various midland and mountain regions in the north as well as from the central highlands and the Mekong River Delta show that many peasants have volunteered to migrate to areas where virgin land is still ample in order to join hands in reclaiming wastelands and developing virgin lands so as to increase the areas under food and industrial crops and carry out afforestation and aquaculture as part of their efforts to build a new life and new home.

In various specialized rice growing areas, unlike past years, cooperative and production collective members now no longer return part of the land they contract for cultivation.

With the application of the product contract system according to unit prices with groups of families and individual families, peasants in all of the above-mentioned areas have come to truly appreciate the value of their land and practice economy when it comes to making use of land for purposes other than cultivation. They have made capital investments in intensive cultivation to increase crop output and in animal husbandry on those pieces of land contracted to them for increased production of goods.

The editorial then warns that besides the positive aspects mentioned above, there have recently emerged land disputes in a number of rural areas where peasants have demanded the return of lands previously allocated to them. In some localities this situation has become rather serious. Land disputes come in different forms—namely, between peasants themselves and between peasants on one side and various state-run economic organs, public organs, and social organizations on the other. In various midland and mountain provinces, local ethnic compatriots are claiming lands distributed to economic zone resettlers or to ethnic people coming from other localities for resettlement. This has further complicated the situation of land management and labor distribution in each area, and has had a direct impact on production and rural solidarity.

The editorial emphasizes: An urgent problem to be solved by various echelons and sectors, especially districts and grass-roots establishments, is the prompt overcoming of land disputes in order to ensure increased production and stable and better lives for the people, to promote increased solidarity, and to build new rural areas.

It is stipulated in the land act that land belongs to the entire people and no citizen is allowed to misinterpret this land act. Party cadres and members, state organs, and social organizations must set examples in complying with the state law and policies and those party resolutions dealing with lands.

In settling disputes, local and grass-roots authorities must dutifully and patiently give their advice, and hold fair and reasonable negotiations with the peasants. They must avoid resorting to rude orders. Intentional violations of the law on land must be properly dealt with and must be done in such a way as to ensure publicness, democracy, and social justice.

Usually, rural land disputes are not similar—some cases are very commonplace while others are quite unique. It is necessary to classify these cases before coming up with specific measures to deal with them satisfactorily. Efforts must be made to avoid making a fuss and doing things with a lot of fanfare without any realistic results, for this may cause tension in normal relations in the rural areas.

Those lands already used for collectivized production by cooperatives and production collectives must be protected and contracted out for cultivation without allowing anyone to occupy them. Those pieces of land already readjusted by the peasants themselves on the basis of voluntary mutual aid and put into stabilized production for many years must not be redistributed at will for individual production.

As for weak cooperatives and production collectives, they must consolidate themselves and adopt a suitable form in organizing, managing, and using lands if production collective members and the collective are to earn higher revenues so they can fulfill their obligatory contributions to the state.

Depending on the specific situation in each locality and area, it will be necessary to confiscate land that has been allocated in a way incompatible with policies, that is, to people who are not entitled to them, and land that has been illegally occupied by local cadres. This will be done in order to redistribute the land to peasant families with production experience, families of disabled soldiers and fallen heroes, and families with meritorious deeds in the Revolution. Efforts must be made to correct faults by allocating lands on an equal basis.

As for those land disputes involving many parties, it is necessary to refer to various party and state recommendations and policies for fair and reasonable settlement. Efforts must be made to ensure that every piece of land is used with high economic results and that the practice of occupying a piece of land and leaving it uncultivated or renting it is ended. The editorial concludes by saying that settlement of rural land disputes must be linked with the reorganization and rearrangement of agricultural production, consolidation and expansion of socialist production relations, correct use of various economic

components, and especially, with perfection of the product contract system in accordance with the spirit of the Political Bureau's Resolution No 10.

More Settlers Sent to New Economic Zones

*BK1408090388 Hanoi VNA in English 0732 GMT
14 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Aug 14—Some 98,000 people, including 50,000 workhands, have settled in new

economic zones, the sparsely populated areas with vast but still unexploited resources, representing 44 percent of the yearly plan.

In the first half of the year, 22,500 people in the northern provinces went to the south, chiefly to the Central Highlands, to farm new lands. Heading the list are Hanoi Capital and Thai Binh Province which have fulfilled their yearly programs.

Australia

Prime Minister Lange Arrives for Visit

BK1508123888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1150 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Text] Brisbane, Australia, Aug 15 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange arrived here Monday at the start of a seven-day official visit during which he is expected to finalize an extension of a bilateral trade agreement.

He was met at the airport of the Queensland capital by Defence Minister Kim Beazley and Queensland Premier Mike Ahern.

Mr. Lange is expected to meet with Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Mr. Beazley, Industry Minister John Button, Trade Negotiations Minister John Duffy and opposition Leader John Howard during his stay.

He will visit World Expo'88 in Brisbane Tuesday and Wednesday before going to New South Wales and Canberra.

He will return here Saturday for a concert by New Zealand soprano Kiri Te Kanawa before going home Sunday.

Australian officials said Mr. Lange was expected to finalize an extension of the Closer Economic Relations (CER) Agreement between Australia and New Zealand in Canberra Thursday.

The CER aims at eliminating all barriers on trade in goods and services between the two countries by 1990, the officials said.

Mr. Lange, 46, has deliberately set a light schedule for his visit to Australia because of recent health problems, they said.

Briefs

Food Aid to Vietnam

Australia is to provide \$600,000 [Australian dollars] worth of relief food aid to Vietnam. The acting foreign affairs minister, Mr Michael Duffy, says the money will be used to buy rice for thousands of people suffering from malnutrition because of crop failure. The assistance is being coordinated by the World Food Program and follows Australia's previous contribution of half a million dollars worth of emergency food to Vietnam in June. [Text] [BK0708111588 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Aug 88]

Fiji

Bavadra To Launch 'Major Political Protest'

BK1508064588 Melbourne Overseas Service
in English 0500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Fiji's deposed prime minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, says he is preparing a major political protest to test the country's tough new internal security decree. He made the announcement after the interim government postponed an important meeting of the Great Council of Chiefs.

The meeting, originally planned for this month, was to have approved a new constitution which would return Fiji to democratic rule. The meeting has been postponed indefinitely, and Dr Bavadra said he was very disturbed by the move.

He said the decision to launch the protest, which would probably take the form of a peace march, came after a meeting of over 3,000 people at his home village in western Fiji 11 days ago. Dr Bavadra said the demonstration would be the first major political protest since he was deposed in a military coup last year and would call on the government to hold public consultations on the constitution.

No date has been set for the demonstrations.

New Caledonia

Two Delegations Leave for Paris Talks

BK1608072888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT
16 Aug 88

[Text] Noumea, Aug 16 (AFP)—Two New Caledonian delegations, one for and the other against independence, left here Tuesday for Paris to take part in talks with the French Government on the future of the Pacific territory.

The eight-member delegation of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), led by FLNKS President Jean-Marie Tjibaou, includes representatives from nearly all of New Caledonia's independence movement.

The only group not represented is the United Kanak Liberation Front (FULK) which has been reluctant to support the Matignon accords which map out the future of New Caledonia.

"We are not going to do a Matignon II," Mr. Tjibaou said shortly before leaving, referring to the agreement he and anti-independence leader Jacques Lafleur signed June 26 in Paris.

"I hope it will lead to good conditions for everyone. It is absolutely essential that a law on a referendum is passed," Mr. Tjibaou said.

The 11-member anti-independence Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) delegation led by Senator Dike Ukeiwe includes RPCR Deputy Maurice Nenou, Noumea Mayor Jean Leques and the presidents of the councils of the eastern region and Loyalty Islands, Antoine Wetta and Simon Loueckhote.

Mr. Lafleur, the RPCR leader, will not attend the Paris talks due to health reasons but saw the delegation off after final consultations.

"I hope that this will finalize the Matignon accord ... That there will be no modification, no cheating," he said.

The meeting, which will pave the way for a national referendum in the fall on the June accord, will finalize a text covering the administration of the territory until a referendum on self-determination in 1998.

Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories Louis de Pensec will chair the meeting.

Vanuatu

Opposition Loses Bid To Return to Parliament

BK1608085088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0829 GMT
16 Aug 88

[Text] Wellington, Aug 16 (AFP)—The Vanuatu Supreme Court Tuesday [16 August] dismissed a petition by 18 former opposition MP's against their sacking from Parliament last month, legal sources in Port Vila said.

Acting Chief Justice Gordon Ward, in a written judgment, ruled that the parliamentary sitting that expelled the 18 members of the francophone Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) on July 28 was a valid one, the sources said by telephone.

The UMP had argued that a quorum did not exist at the sitting for business to be transacted.

The 18 were expelled under a rule that MP's could not be absent from Parliament on three consecutive days without permission.

The UMP had stayed away in support of former cabinet Minister Barak Sope and four other ex-government MP's, who were sacked from Parliament after signing a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Walter Lini.

Justice Ward earlier dismissed two petitions by Mr. Sope and his four supporters over their sackings.

The two sets of expulsions has left Vanuatu's 46-seat Parliament with only 23 MP's.

Father Lini has ruled out any by-elections before November, saying the Constitution stated that there could be no further polling within 12 months of a general election.

Mr. Sope, a founder of the ruling Vanuaaku Party, challenged Fr. Lini for the prime ministership after the party was returned to power in November.

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